

US: NO MORE SHUTDOWNS

PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leaders from both parties insist a sequel to the government shutdown must be avoided although a plan to dodge it is still elusive.

"This can never happen again," Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said.



Senate Minority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell walks on Capitol Hill in Washington.
(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Added Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell: "There'll not be another government shutdown, you can count on that." The 16-day partial shutdown ended last week although a possible repeat may be on the horizon. Lawmakers approved a budget that keeps the lights on through Jan. 15 and lets Treasury continue to pay its bills through Feb. 7.

That's not to say there is a solution at hand, and no one is rushing forward with alternatives to a potential repeat of the gridlock that shuttered parts of the government and pushed the U.S. to the brink of a default on its debt. The political price has been high ahead of 2014's midterm elections, especially for Republicans.

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Rocky Rollout



President Barack Obama speaks in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington. Administration officials say about 476,000 health insurance applications have been filed through federal and state exchanges, the most detailed measure yet of the problem-plagued rollout of President Obama's signature legislation.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

For Obama, a frustrating debut for health care

JULIE PACE
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is expected Monday to address the problem-plagued rollout of his signature health care legislation, which has suffered an embarrassing start with a cascade of computer problems plaguing online sign-ups for health insurance.

The rough rollout has been a black eye for Obama, who invested significant time and political capital in his first term getting the law passed, with the goal of insuring millions of Americans

without coverage. Administration officials say more than 476,000 health insurance applications have been filed through federal and state exchanges. The figures mark the most detailed measure yet of the problem-plagued rollout of the insurance marketplace. However, the officials continue to refuse to say how many people have actually enrolled. And without enrollment figures, it's unclear whether the program is on track to reach the 7 million people projected to gain coverage during the six-month sign-up period.

Obama will directly address the technical problems with the health care websites Monday morning during an event in the White House Rose Garden, according to the White House. Officials said the president finds the glitches unacceptable and will outline for the public steps the administration is taking to address the troubles. Obama will be joined during the event by people who have already enrolled in insurance programs through the new exchanges. The administration has not said how many people have enrolled during the

first three weeks of sign-ups. Administration officials initially blamed a high volume of interest from ordinary Americans for the frozen screens that many people encountered. Since then, they have also acknowledged problems with software and some elements of the system's design. The officials said technology experts from inside and outside the government are being brought in to work on the glitches, though they did not say how many workers were being added.

Continued on page 3

Putting a price on damage of slavery: Caribbean nations to seek reparations

STEPHEN CASTLE

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LONDON - In a 2008 biography he wrote of an anti-slavery campaigner, Britain's foreign secretary, William Hague, described the trade in human beings as an indefensible barbarity, "brutal, mercenary and inhumane from its beginning to its end."

Fourteen Caribbean countries that once sustained that slave economy now want Hague to put his money where his mouth is. Spurred by a sense of injustice that has lingered for two centuries, the countries

the slave trade once - but to slave owners, not their victims.

Britain transported more than 3 million Africans across the Atlantic, and the effect of the trade was vast. Historians estimate that, in the Victorian era, between one-fifth and one-sixth of all wealthy Britons derived at least some of their fortunes from the slave economy. Yet the issue of apologies - let alone reparations - for the actions of long-dead leaders and generals remains a touchy one all over the globe.

Caribbean nations argue

adjudicates legal disputes among states.

"What happened in the Caribbean and West Africa was so egregious we feel that bringing a case in the ICJ would have a decent chance of success," Day said.

"The fact that you were subjugating a whole class of people in a massively discriminatory way has no parallel," he added.

Some Caribbean nations have begun assessing the lasting damage they suffered, ranging from stunted educational and economic opportunities to dietary



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves addresses the United Nations General Assembly, at U.N. headquarters. Leaders of more than a dozen Caribbean nations have united to seek compensation from European nations for what they say is the lingering legacy of the Atlantic slave trade.

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

plan to compile an inventory of the lasting damage they believe they suffered and then demand an apology and reparations from the former colonial powers of Britain, France and the Netherlands.

To present their case, they have hired a firm of London lawyers that this year won compensation from Britain for Kenyans who were tortured under British colonial rule in the 1950s.

Britain outlawed the slave trade in 1807, but its legacy remains. In 2006, Tony Blair, then prime minister, expressed his "deep sorrow" over the slave trade; the Dutch social affairs minister, Lodewijk Asscher, made a similar statement in July.

Britain has paid compensation over the abolition of

that their brutal past continues, to some extent, to enslave them today.

"Our constant search and struggle for development resources is linked directly to the historical inability of our nations to accumulate wealth from the efforts of our peoples during slavery and colonialism," said Baldwin Spencer, prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, in July this year.

Reparations, he said, must be directed toward repairing the damage inflicted by slavery and racism.

Martyn Day, the senior partner at Leigh Day, the London law firm acting for the Caribbean countries, said a case could start next year at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, a tribunal that

and health problems, Day said.

Critics contend that it makes no sense to try to redress wrongs that reach back through the centuries, and that Caribbean countries already receive compensation through development aid.

The legal terrain is not encouraging. Although several U.S. and British companies have apologized for links to slavery, efforts by descendants of 19th-century African-American slaves to seek reparations from corporations in U.S. courts have so far come to little. And, unlike the successful case made in Britain by Kenyans tortured during the Mau Mau uprising, there are no victims of slavery to present in court. □

CARIBBEAN NEWS BRIEFS

Police seize over 600lbs of marijuana

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaican authorities have seized a haul of marijuana in a rural district.

A Sunday police statement says about 360 pounds (163 kilograms) of compressed marijuana and 271 pounds (123 kilograms) of loose pot was found stuffed in barrels hidden in bushes. Police also seized boxes, a hydraulic jack and other items during the raid in St. Elizabeth parish. There have been no arrests. Jamaica is the Caribbean's largest producer and exporter of marijuana, known locally as ganja. The drug has been pervasive but illegal on the island for a century. □

Dominican lawyer held over shooting

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Police in the Dominican Republic have arrested a former legislator they say accidentally shot and killed a Haitian man while trying to protect him from being assaulted by two men. Police say attorney Agnes Contreras Valenzuela fired a licensed shotgun at the two suspects but also hit and killed the unidentified Haitian man. One of the suspected assailants was injured and arrested when he sought medical care. Police said Contreras told them she was standing in her home's doorway on Thursday waiting for her sons to arrive when she saw the two suspects assaulting the man and decided to take action. □

Jamaica cops arrest 3 in triple murder

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Police have arrested three men for a triple murder in northern Jamaica earlier this month. The three victims were in a wholesale shop in St. James parish on Oct. 13, when they were fatally shot by a group of gunmen. The business owner was also shot in the attack but was treated and released from a local hospital. The Jamaica Constabulary Force says the three suspects have turned themselves in, two of them accompanied by their attorneys. □

Officials pick coffee, raise awareness

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — More than a dozen government officials in Puerto Rico are headed to the island's mountainous interior to pick coffee in an effort to raise awareness about the hard-hit industry. The initiative comes as the island keeps losing an estimated 35 percent of each year's crop because there is no one to pick it. Roughly 80,000 pounds (39,900 kilograms) of coffee were collected during the most recent harvest, one of the lowest in Puerto Rico's history. Officials this year aim to collect 120,000 pounds. The governor recently announced an initiative to generate 6,000 new jobs and cultivate an additional 16,000 acres in the next two years. □

Two accused in Swiss banker's death

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) — Authorities in the Cayman Islands have charged two inmates with the 2008 killing of a Swiss banker who worked in Grand Cayman. Police say the unidentified inmates are to appear in court this week. They are serving time in a case unrelated to the banker's killing. The charges come more than five years after the body of 40-year-old banker Frederic Bise was found in the trunk of a car that had been set on fire. □

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For Obama, a frustrating debut for health care



In this computer frame grab, the HealthCare.gov website is displayed.

(AP Photo/HealthCare.gov)

Continued from Front

Officials did say staffing has been increased at call centers by about 50 percent. As problems persist on the federally run website, the administration is encouraging more people to sign up for insurance over the phone.

The officials would not discuss the health insurance rollout by name and were granted anonymity. Despite the widespread problems, the White House has yet to fully explain what went wrong with the online system consumers were supposed to use to sign up for coverage. Interest in the insurance

markets appears to continue to be high. Officials said about 19 million people have visited HealthCare.gov as of Friday night. Americans seeking health coverage through the legislation must fill out applications before selecting a specific plan. The forms re-

quire personal information, including income figures that are used to calculate any subsidies the applicant may qualify for.

More than one person can be included on an application.

An internal memo obtained by The Associated

Press showed that the administration projected nearly a half million people would enroll for the insurance markets during the first month.

Officials say they expect enrollments to be heavier toward the end of the six-month sign up window. □

US: Shutdown not to be repeated

Continued from Front

"I think there was some ground lost from the political point of view," said former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a potential 2016 Republican presidential contender.

Democratic House Leader Nancy Pelosi reiterated the public's reaction to the partisan gamesmanship that played out over more than two weeks: "I join the American people in their disgust at what happened in terms of the shutdown of government."

But there's no real way forward to dodge a repeat and its chief architect, Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, is urging one. Hundreds of thousands of government workers were sent home amid the shutdown and national parks were barricaded while politicians negotiated. The whole situation could be repeated — combined with economic consequences — early next year, perhaps with more severe consequences.

"The deal this week was a lousy deal for the American people," Cruz said. □

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Feds begin probe of SF Bay Area rail worker deaths

LISA LEFF

TRACIE CONE

Associated Press

OAKLAND, California (AP)

— Federal accident investigators were in the San Francisco Bay Area on Sunday to examine the deaths of two transit workers who were struck by an out-of-service commuter train performing routine maintenance.

nance.

Saturday's accident on Bay Area Rapid Transit tracks in the East Bay city of Walnut Creek took place against the backdrop of a contentious and disruptive labor strike.

Two National Transportation Safety Board investigators were at the site of the accident on Sunday, NTSB

spokesman Eric Weiss said.

The two-man team will be looking at everything leading up to the collision, from safety procedures and qualifications of personnel to the track's condition.

The four-car BART train with several people aboard was being run in automatic mode under computer control at the time of the



A BART police officer looks along the BART tracks along Jones Road in Walnut Creek, where a moving BART train struck and killed two people in Walnut Creek, Calif., on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013.

(AP Photo/The Mercury News, Dan Rosenstrauch)

accident, Assistant General Manager Paul Oversier said. The system has been shut down since Friday because of a work stoppage by the system's two largest unions.

The train was returning from a yard where workers clean graffiti from cars

when it slammed into the two workers — one a BART employee and the other a contractor — who were inspecting an above-ground stretch of track between stations, Oversier said.

Neither BART nor the county coroner has released the identities of the victims. □

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NYC's respite from murder broken

MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ

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NEW YORK - After a seven-day stretch in which no homicides were recorded in the city, five occurred in 10 hours over the weekend. Three killings occurred in the Bronx, and two in Brooklyn. As of Saturday evening, no arrests had been made. Despite the five homicides, the number of killings this year is down over 20 percent compared with 2012. And last year, the city recorded its lowest annual homicide total, 417, in at least half a century.

The first killing occurred at 6 p.m. Friday in the South Bronx. Two friends were standing together near the Adams Houses when a gunman opened fire, the police said. Tyrek Singleton, 28, of the Bronx was shot in the torso and pronounced dead at Lincoln Medical Center.

His 26-year-old friend, who was not immediately identified, was shot in

the leg. The friend told investigators that he did not know the gunman, the police said.

Two and a half hours later, two men were shot in the chest and killed in Brownsville, Brooklyn, near a mosque run by the Nation of Islam, the police said. It did not appear that the killing had anything to do with the mosque, the police said. The men were identified as Tevin Beckles, 21, and Randolph Williams, 37, both of Brooklyn. The police said Williams had 52 arrests, most of them drug-related. At 2:15 a.m. Saturday, police officers found Pablo Pagan, 40, dead with a gunshot wound to the head close to his home in the Bronx.

About three miles away, at 4:14 a.m., police officers discovered Marco Castillo, 24, with a gunshot wound to the chest. He was pronounced dead at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx. □

2 safe 15 hours after boat capsizes off US

CLARKE CANFIELD

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

Prayers, scripture verses and gospel songs helped two men survive a harrowing 15-hour ordeal of waves and winds until they were rescued by a passing fishing boat after their boat capsized in the chilly waters off the Massachusetts coast, one of the men said Sunday. The New Hampshire men spent Friday night sitting on a plank over two hulls of a 25-foot (7.5-meter) trimaran as waves left them soaked and cold. George Reynolds told The Associated Press he and Fred Schaeffer prayed for strength — and calm seas and winds — as their muscles cramped and they violently shivered as they tried to stay warm.

"It was a real test of my faith," Reynolds, of Derry, said in a telephone interview from his home. "I said, 'Lord, whatever your will is I'm in the mercy of your hands, and if this is going to be the end I'm trusting in your mercy.'"

Reynolds, 62, and Schaeffer, of Raymond, who's in his late 40s, put Reynolds' boat, the "Ark Angel," in the water in Salem, Massachusetts, on Friday with plans to sail to Boston. But with winds blowing hard and the boat flying along at more than 25 knots (46 kph), they decided part-way through the trip that it would be safer to turn back toward Salem.

A strong gust of wind flipped the boat over between 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., a couple of miles (kilometers) from the mainland and more than a mile (1.6 kilometers) from the nearest island. Schaeffer's cellphone wouldn't work after it got wet.



In this photo made Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013, Fred Schaeffer, left, of Raymond, N.H. and George Reynolds, right, of Derry, N.H. sit in a car after being rescued in waters off of Salem, Mass. (AP Photo/WCVB.com. Stanley Foreman)

Reynolds took off his life vest and tried waving it to get the attention of a far-away fishing boat, but the wind blew it out of his hands into the water. So he and his best friend put a plank across the hull and hunkered down, back-to-back to give each other warmth and support.

Through the night, with the air temperature dropping into the 40s Fahrenheit (single digits Celsius) and water temperatures at 58 degrees F (14 degrees C), the water lapped onto their plank and on occasion crashed over them.

Reynolds, who owns a small welding fabrication business, said he's been teaching Bible courses at a New Hampshire prison for more than 25 years and that he and Schaeffer attend church together. So they prayed a lot, sang and did some soul-searching as they kept each other awake, worried they might fall into the water. □

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US Navy's largest destroyer going into water in Maine

DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

BATH, Maine (AP) — After embarrassing troubles with its latest class of surface warships, the U.S. Navy is hoping for a winner from a new destroyer that's ready to go into the water.

So far, construction of the first-in-class Zumwalt, the largest U.S. Navy destroyer ever built, is on time and on budget, something that's a rarity in new defense programs, officials said. And the Navy believes the ship's big gun, stealthy silhouette and advance features will make it a formidable package.

The christening of the ship bearing the name of the late Adm. Elmo "Bud" Zumwalt was canceled a week ago because of the

federal government shut-down. Without fanfare, the big ship will be moved to dry dock and floated in the coming days. Meanwhile, the public christening ceremony featuring Zumwalt's

two daughters will be re-scheduled for the spring. Adm. Zumwalt served in destroyers during World War II and was awarded a Bronze Star for valor at the Battle of Leyte Gulf. As the

nation's youngest chief of naval operations, appointed at age 49 by President Richard Nixon, he fought to end racial discrimination and allowed women to serve on ships for the first time. Like its namesake, the ship is innovative.

It is so big that Bath Iron Works, a General Dynamics subsidiary, built a 106-foot (32-meter)-tall, \$40 million "Ultra Hall" to accommodate its large hull segments. The ship is 100 feet (30 meters) longer than the existing class of destroyers.

It features an unusual wave-piercing hull, electric drive propulsion, advanced sonar and guided missiles, and a new gun that fires rocket-propelled warheads as far as 100 miles (160 kilometers). Unlike warships with towering radar- and antenna-laden superstructures, the Zumwalt will ride low to the water to minimize its radar signature, making it stealthier than other warships.

Originally envisioned for shore bombardment, the ship's size and power plant that can produce 78 megawatts of electricity — enough to power 78,000 homes — make it a potential platform for futuristic weapons like the electromagnetic rail gun, which uses a magnetic field and electric current to fire a projectile at seven times the speed of sound.

There are so many computers and so much automation that it'll need fewer sailors, operating with a crew of 158, nearly half the complement aboard the current generation of destroyers.

"The concept of the Zumwalt is sort of a bridge between the traditions of the past and the new world of networked warfare and

precision guided munitions," said Loren Thompson, defense analyst at the Lexington Institute. "It's not so much a radical concept as it is an attempt to pull off a full range of missions with a ship that has one foot in the present and one foot in the future." The Navy once envisioned building more than 20 of the ships. But the ship has so many sophisticated features and its cost grew so high that senior Navy officials tried to kill the program. Instead, it was truncated to just three ships, the first being the Zumwalt. The Zumwalt will cost more than \$3.5 billion — about three times that of current destroyers — but the program has not been beset by big cost overruns or delays, officials said.

The fact that construction has gone smoothly is a relief for the Navy, which has dealt with embarrassing troubles on its new class of speedy warship, dubbed the "littoral combat ship." Those smaller ships, designed to operate close to shore in littoral waters, have been plagued by escalating costs, production delays and mechanical problems. Mission modules that give them the flexibility to perform roles including anti-submarine warfare and minesweeping are not ready, even though the first ships have been commissioned.

"That ship is a total disaster," said Norman Polmar, a naval historian, analyst and author.

Against that backdrop, shipbuilders at Bath Iron Works have been toiling away on the Zumwalt, the first entirely new ship built on the banks of the Kennebec River since the original Arleigh Burke was christened more than 20 years ago. □



The first-in-class Zumwalt, the largest U.S. Navy destroyer ever built, is seen coming together at Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine. (AP Photo/Handout)



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Kennedy's vision for mental health never realized



President John F. Kennedy signs a bill authorizing \$329 million for mental health programs at the White House in Washington. Former U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy will host a conference on Oct. 24, 2013 in Boston, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Community Mental Health Act, and formulate an agenda to continue improving mental health care.

(AP Photo/Bill Allen)

MICHELLE R. SMITH
Associated Press
PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP) — The last piece of legislation President John F. Kennedy signed turns 50 this month: the Community Mental Health Act, which helped transform the way people with mental illness are treated and cared for in the United States. Signed on Oct. 31, 1963, weeks before Kennedy was assassinated, the legislation aimed to build mental health centers accessible to all Americans so that those with mental illnesses could be treated while working and living at home, rather than being kept in neglectful and often abusive state institutions, sometimes for years on end. Kennedy said when he signed the bill that the legislation to build 1,500 centers would mean the population of those living in state mental hospitals — at that time more than 500,000

people — could be cut in half. In a special message to Congress earlier that year, he said the idea was to successfully and quickly treat patients in their own communities and then return them to "a useful place in society." Recent deadly mass shootings, including at the Washington Navy Yard and a Colorado movie theater, have been perpetrated by men who were apparently not being adequately treated for serious mental illnesses. Those tragedies have focused public attention on the mental health system and made clear that Kennedy's vision was never fully realized. The legislation did help to usher in positive life-altering changes for people with serious illnesses such as schizophrenia, many of whom now live normal, productive lives with jobs and families. In 1963, the average stay in a state institution for someone with

schizophrenia was 11 years. But only half of the proposed centers were ever built, and those were never fully funded.

Meanwhile, about 90 percent of beds have been cut at state hospitals, according to Paul Appelbaum, a Columbia University psychiatry professor and expert in how the law affects the practice of medicine. In many cases, several mental health experts said, that has left nowhere for the sickest people to turn, so they end up homeless, abusing substances or in prison. The three largest mental health providers in the nation today are jails: Cook County in Illinois, Los Angeles County and Rikers Island in New York.

"The rhetoric was very high-falutin.

The reality was a little more complicated, and the funds that were provided were not adequate to the task," said Steven Sharfstein, president and CEO of Sheppard Pratt Health System, a nonprofit behavioral health organization in Baltimore.

"The goals of deinstitutionalization were perverted. People who did need institutional care got thrown out, and there weren't the programs in place to keep them supported," said former U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy, the president's nephew. "We don't have an alternate policy to address the needs of the severely mentally ill." □

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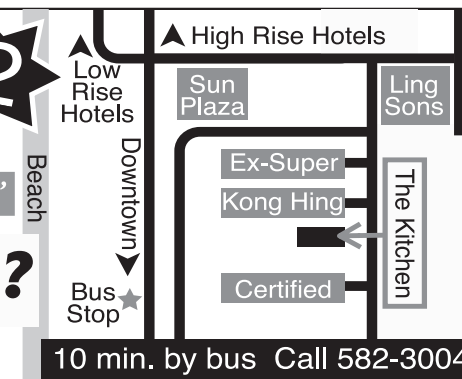
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Egypt police, protesters clash at Cairo university

HAMZA HENDAWI
MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian anti-riot police fired tear gas Sunday at hundreds of supporters of the country's ousted Islamist president, besieging them inside a prestigious Muslim institution after stone-hurling protesters cut off a main road. Sunday's clashes marked the second day of unrest at Al-Azhar University, Sunni Islam's most prominent center of learning. Many supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood are students at Al-Azhar, a stronghold of the group. The campus is also near where Islamists had a sprawling protest camp that security forces raided in August, leaving hundreds dead and sparking days of unrest. The students' protest started with a march inside campus, where protesters hurled stones at the administrator's offices, smashing windows and breaking doors, said Ibrahim el-Houdhoud, deputy

head of the university. He told satellite news channel Al-Jazeera Mubashir Misr that he warned protesters against leaving campus and clashing with security forces. The protesters however ignored the advice, marching out of the main gates to hold "prayers for the dead" — honoring students killed in earlier clashes between security forces and protesters in July. The protests come amid heated debate over a new law that would place tougher restrictions on demonstrators, which includes imposing heavy fines and possible jail time on violators. □



Egyptians run from tear gas after clashes erupted between Al-Azhar students and police forces during a protest in the Nasr City district of Cairo, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Heba el-Kholy)

Confusion over long-delayed Syria conference

RYAN LUCAS
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Reflecting confusion in efforts to convene an international conference to end Syria's civil war, the Arab League chief announced on Sunday that talks will take place

next month in Geneva, only to have the U.N. envoy flatly deny a date has been set. The bizarre diplomatic two-step between Arab League chief Nabil Elaraby and the U.N. envoy for Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, at a joint news conference

added to the uncertainty surrounding the proposed peace talks. A decision over whether the long-delayed negotiations will happen at all could come at a meeting of the Syrian opposition early next month that will focus on whether to sit down with President Bashar Assad's regime. The United States and Russia, who support opposing sides in the conflict that has killed more than 100,000 people, have been trying for months to bring the Damascus government and Syria's divided opposition to the table for a peace conference. But with the war deadlocked, neither the regime nor the rebels showed any interest in compromise, forcing the meeting to be repeatedly postponed. Even now, it remains unclear whether either side is willing to negotiate. The main Western-backed opposition umbrella group,

the Syrian National Coalition, is scheduled to meet Nov. 1-2 in Istanbul to decide whether to take part in the proposed Geneva conference. One of the most prominent factions within the Coalition, the Syrian National Council, has said it has no faith in talks with Assad's regime and won't attend any Geneva negotiations. But the Coalition's ability to speak for the broader rebellion has long been in dispute, and fighters inside Syria — many of whom reject negotiations with the regime — have accused the opposition leaders in exile of being out of touch with reality on the ground. The Coalition's credibility, already strained, took a major hit last month when nearly a dozen prominent rebel groups publicly broke with the opposition umbrella group. More rebel brigades have since followed suit. □

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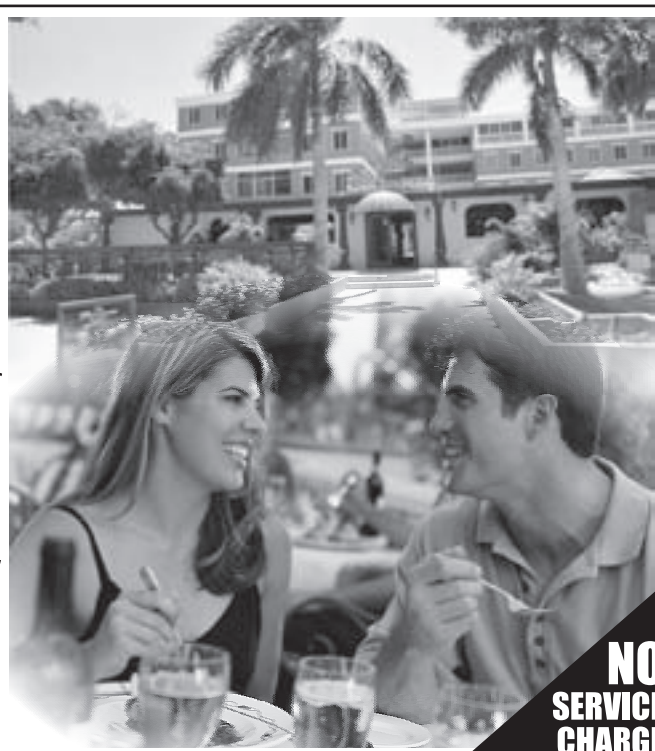
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Prisoner swap frees Lebanese held by Syrian rebels and Turks

BEN HUBBARD
HWAIDA SAAD

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BEIRUT - A flurry of back-room Middle East diplomacy led to an ambitious international prisoner swap on Saturday that freed Lebanese citizens held by Syrian rebels and Turkish pilots kidnapped by Lebanese gunmen.

Late Saturday, a plane carrying the nine freed Lebanese captives arrived in Beirut from Istanbul while a plane from Beirut to Istanbul took the Turkish pilots home.

The swap was brokered and carried out by Lebanese, Turkish, Qatari and Palestinian officials, underlining the strong links between the warring parties in Syria and foreign powers, some of which have actively sought to influence the course of the war.

Some local reports said the Syrian government was expected to release a num-

ber of female prisoners as demanded by the rebels in exchange for the captives from Lebanon, which is home to Hezbollah, a Syrian ally. Some women were recently released, but it was unclear if that was part of the larger deal.

The full conclusion of the deal would be a rare bright spot in Syria's civil war, which has left more than 100,000 people dead, sent millions of refugees streaming across international borders and exacerbated sectarian tensions across the Middle East. On Saturday, more than 30 people were killed in intense fighting east of Damascus, about half of them soldiers killed by a suicide bomber. Despite the success of the swap on Saturday, it appeared unlikely that the agreement, which involved only one of Syria's hundreds of rebel groups and focused solely on the exchange of captives, could



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, family members and officials surround a Qatari plane to welcome Murat Akpinar and Murat Agca, two Turkish Airlines pilots kidnapped by armed assailants in Beirut in August, upon their arrival at the Ataturk Airport in Istanbul, Turkey, Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013. The pilots held hostage in Lebanon and nine Lebanese pilgrims abducted in Syria returned home Saturday night, part of an ambitious three-way deal cutting across the Syrian civil war.

(AP Photo)

be expanded to open the possibility of talks aimed at ending the war itself.

In fact, the 17-month detention by Sunni rebels left some of the Lebanese

captives, all of them Shiites, seeing the war in starkly sectarian terms. □



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Luxembourg prime minister's party wins most votes

RAF CASERT
Associated Press

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — The Christian Democrat party of long-serving Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker easily remained the biggest party and the first choice to form a new coalition government following Sunday's elections.

With near complete results, Juncker's CSV will drop almost 4.5 points from the 38 percent of the 2009 elections, but remains well ahead of both Socialist coalition partner LSAP, which hovered just over 20 percent and the opposition Liberal DP, which made a big move up to 18.5 percent.

Juncker, who is the longest-serving government leader in the 28-nation Eu-

ropean Union with a reign going back to 1995, could both form a center-left or center-right government, or face a grand coalition against him of Liberals-Socialist-Greens.

"I am satisfied with the result. Our party remains the biggest," Juncker said.

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which borders France and Germany, has about 515,000 inhabitants. It's a founding member of the European Union and a major financial center, giving it clout well beyond the size of its population. Juncker was head of the eurogroup of nations that share the EU's common currency between 2005 and early this year.

Often a picture of sedate bourgeois conservatism,



Leader of the Christian Democrat party Jean-Claude Juncker, center, receives applause from party members and supporters at his election headquarters in Luxembourg on Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

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Luxembourg was shocked into snap elections this summer after Juncker failed to contain a spying scandal centering on allegations of eavesdropping and wiretapping on politicians and the keeping of files on ordinary citizens and leading figures dating back to the Cold War.

There also were allegations that state money was used

to pay for cars and apartments being used by the small country's security service.

Juncker was not implicated, but his coalition partner, the Socialists, told him to take political responsibility and he called the early election.

The scandal punished Juncker's party but it could have been worse. The CSV

was expected to drop from 26 to 23 seats in the 60-seat legislature.

Projections show both the LSAP and DP with 13 seats and the Greens with six.

"As a party we don't have a preference as far as the coalition partners are concerned.

We do not have exclusive views on that," Juncker said. □

60 hurt in Montenegro gay pride march

PREDRAG MILIC
Associated Press

PODGORICA, Montenegro (AP) — Police in Montenegro fired tear gas to repel anti-gay extremists who threw rocks and firebombs at officers protecting a gay pride march Sunday, officials said. About 60 people were injured.

The violence occurred when the attackers tried to push through hundreds of police to reach those taking part in the march in

Podgorica, the capital of the staunchly conservative Balkan country. After the march, the gay rights demonstrators were evacuated to a safe location in police vehicles. Police said about 20 of the injured during the clashes were officers, and the remaining 40 were from "hooligan groups." About 60 of around 1,500 extremists who took part in the riots were arrested, police said. March organizer Danijel Kalezic said the police

protection allowed about 150 gay activists to walk peacefully through the city. "As of today, gay people are no longer invisible in Montenegro," Kalezic said. "From today, these streets are ours as well."

Such pride marches are seen as a test of Montenegro's commitment to human rights as it seeks to join the European Union. Gay rights opponents attacked a similar march in July in the coastal town of Budva. □

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French, Thai experts search for lost plane in Laos



French investigators in a boat participate in a search operation following a plane crash in the Mekong River in Pakse, Laos. Teams of French and Thai experts pried the vast-muddy Mekong River with high-tech sonar equipment, ramping up the search for a Lao Airlines plane and raising hopes of finding clues into why it crashed. Lao Airlines flight QV301 crashed last week as it prepared to land in stormy weather at Pakse Airport in southern Laos.

(AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)

Half of those aboard the flight were foreigners from eight different countries.

By Saturday afternoon, 36 bodies had been found and authorities were still trying to identify several of them, said Yakua Lopangkao, director-general of Laos' Department of Civil Aviation.

The ATR aircraft was delivered in March, raising questions as to why a virtually new plane crashed.

Until Saturday, the search for bodies and the plane's flight data recorder, or black box, had been stalled by lack of manpower and equipment in the poor Southeast Asian country, which lacks capabilities in disaster management. □

JERRY HARMER
Associated Press
PAKSE, Laos (AP) — Teams of French and Thai experts pried the muddy Mekong River with high-tech sonar equipment over the weekend, ramping up the search for the remnants of a Lao Airlines plane and more than a dozen bodies still missing from the crash three days earlier. On the riverbank, a group of orange-robed Buddhist

monks performed a prayer ceremony for the 49 people who were aboard Lao Airlines flight QV301, all of whom are presumed to be dead. The ATR-72 turboprop aircraft crashed Wednesday as it prepared to land in stormy weather at Pakse Airport in southern Laos. The plane then skidded into the Mekong River, the largest in Southeast Asia, and disappeared.

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Argentine commuter train slams into station, again

DAMIAN PACHTER
The Associated Press
BUENOS AIRES, Argentina
(AP) — A commuter train

slammed into the bumper at the end of the line over the weekend at the same station in Argentina's capi-

tal where 52 people were killed in a similar crash last year.

This time there was no immediate report of deaths, but at least 80 people were injured.

A mob quickly formed,

unleashing its fury at the train operators. Passengers chanted "murderer, murderer!" at the injured driver through the shattered cabin window. Officers intervened and the driver was soon hospitalized under

police custody.

Police in riot gear then took control of the Once (ohn-say) station after the angry crowd broke glass and threw stones in the street outside.

At least 80 people were injured, including an 8-year-old boy, according to the Security Secretariat. Of those, five people had broken bones, but none of the wounds were life-threatening, said Security Secretary Sergio Berni.

Some of the injured here hit by shattered glass from the train's windows, he said.

Berni said it was too early to say why the train failed to stop, crashing through the bumper at the end of the line and ending up wedged between the floor and ceiling of the platform. One end of the huge iron hydraulic bumper that protects the end of the line was driven deep into the train car, while the other end was lifted over the platform and jammed into the turnstiles.

Transportation Minister Florencio Randazzo said that driver Julio Benitez had registered negative for alcohol during a routine test before his work shift.

The newspaper Clarin quoted Randazzo as saying the driver had taken the disc from the security camera that recorded the accident but police later confiscated it from him.

He also said President Cristina Fernandez knew nothing about the accident because she was in strict repose after her recent head surgery.

Jorge Ramirez, a 47-year-old cook, entered the train's second car nine stations before the end of the line. He told The Associated Press that the driver overshot several platforms and had to go in reverse before opening the doors, and that he bypassed one station altogether.

Other passengers, however, said that the train seemed to be proceeding correctly.

"This is all a tragedy. I saw people hurt, shouting, others thrown on the floor. The people in the first wagon ended up piled on top of each other," Ramirez said. Berni said some of the injured were waiting on the platform and were hit by glass as the train's windows shattered.

Firefighters, police and medical personnel evacuated the wrecked train, but many passengers didn't wait, kicking out windows to escape cars whose doors were stuck.

"Suddenly the train wasn't stopping. It came off the rails and crashed into the ceiling, which stopped it. Then an impressive cloud of smoke came out," said Maxi Jaquet, who sells hot dogs in the station. "We ran and began to help." □



Police and paramedics carry a wounded passenger to an ambulance after a commuter train slammed into the end of the line when arriving to Once Central station in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP Photo/Eduardo Di Baia)

Elders of Mexico's Arellano Felix clan killed

IGNACIO MARTINEZ
Associated Press
LOS CABOS, Mexico (AP) —

Francisco Rafael Arellano Felix, the eldest brother of Mexico's once-feared Arellano Felix drug clan, was shot to death in the Baja beach resort of Los Cabos by a gunman wearing a clown costume, authorities said this weekend.

Relatives of Arellano Felix confirmed his identity at the scene of the crime at a rented beach house, the attorney general's office in Baja California Sur state said in a statement.

A photo from the scene showed his body sprawled on the tiled floor of the open-sided, beachfront

house, covered by a sheet. An official of the Baja California Sur state prosecutor's office said Saturday that the killer wore a clown costume complete with a wig and a round red nose. The official was not authorized to be quoted by name.

The motive for the attack, and the gunmen's disguise, are still under investigation.

Known for its violent and brutal control of the drug trade in the border city of Tijuana in the 1990s, the arrests or death of most of the seven Arellano Felix brothers have reduced the cartel to a shadow of its former self.

Now aged 63, Arellano Felix was already in prison when

the gang rose to its height.

"He was never really part of the leadership of the big organization, mostly because he was in jail (in Mexico). He was arrested before they became what they really became," said John Kirby, a former federal prosecutor in San Diego who co-wrote a 2003 indictment against the Arellano Felix cartel leadership.

The elder of the Arellano Felix brothers was arrested in 1993 in connection with the murder of Roman Catholic Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo and served a 10-year sentence for weapons possession. Mexican officials were concerned that he would

return to drug trafficking after serving his Mexican sentence and asked their U.S. counterparts to seek his extradition as he neared completion of a sentence on the unrelated weapons charge. "The Mexicans were very concerned he was going to get out," Kirby said.

Kirby said he found enough evidence to bring charges on the 1980 drug case and he prepared the extradition request. Arellano Felix was extradited to the U.S. in 2006 to face California charges stemming from a 1980 case in which he allegedly sold cocaine to an undercover police officer in the United States. □



Theo Bakacs: A Big Brother Making A Difference

ORANJESTAD/BOSTON -

The week of April 15th, the day of the Boston Marathon resonates very deep in my mind. Two days before, while driving on a back road in Aruba, I came upon a brush fire: Palm trees were ablaze and the dark smoke from the burning plastic fencing threatened the two houses abutting the 10 acre lot. I broke down the door of both houses to ensure that no one was home asleep. Fortunately, I only helped save two dogs.

Two days later, on Monday April 15th the Boston Marathon bombing happened. I live only 5 miles from the finish line. My wife was on the plane heading back to Boston when the catastrophe occurred. I was never so proud of my town, Boston, then when they caught the two culprits.

I decided to design a line of t-shirts to commemorate the spirit of "Boston Strong". Being Boston Strong, to me, is not about a city in Massachusetts, but rather the strength that resides in each of us.

I was born fifty six years ago in the projects in a small town just outside the Bronx. Being born poor, on welfare and food stamps wasn't the bad part...the bad part was the child abuse. I'll save you the gory details but you'll understand the gravity of the abuse when I tell you the abuser, my father, was sent to jail a couple of times for beating me and my Mom.

So in October of 1969 my four siblings and I were put in separate foster homes and I was told by the Catholic nuns that I would never see them again. I was the oldest and made it my life's mission to keep my family together. I decided to become Boston Strong.

As bad as my life was with the beatings and all, I had

the love of my family. Now alone, in a foster home and hated by the foster families five sons, I had nothing. I was essentially a slave for the four and a half years I was incarcerated there. During this time I saw my siblings every month or two for an hour or so in a court house.

Having to work 50 hours a week to pay for my car and room left little time for studies but I knew I had to finish high school. I had to

heroin addict myself. The upside was that I met the girl who I would later marry and with whom we have three beautiful daughters today.

Here I was a heroin addict, drug-dealing bum barely able to care for myself and they want me to adopt my baby sister. I essentially told the caseworker that life had taken everything from me and that all I had was my family, and only one sister. Once again my abil-

knowledge I am Boston Strong, Aruban Strong....no Ted Strong. I didn't graduate until I was 29 years old, but I graduated. You see I had promised my grandmother that I would and to see that all my siblings did too. I worked in corporate America as a stock broker, financial analyst and various other endeavors and now find myself in paradise, in Aruba in a number of business ventures. I don't aspire to be rich monetarily;

When I was put in foster home I never got to say goodbye to Mr. Carol and thank him for all he did for me. Actually it wasn't until I was in my thirties that I realize what he did for me. He convinced me that I could be a success; that my poverty and abuse did not define me. That if I persevered I could break the cycle of poverty and abuse that plagued my family for generations.

It's a funny thing. When I was named Big Brother of the Year for New England, Adam (my little) and I were interviewed by various newspapers and television stations. During one such interview the reporter asked Adam what he liked doing best with me.

I thought he would say the time we went to the circus or the Red Sox game, or some other such event, but I was surprised it was none of those things. He said that he just enjoyed being with me, at my home, just hanging out. What's funny is that I would have the same things had I been asked about what I enjoyed doing most with my Big Brother, Mr. Carol.

Mr. Carol never knew how he impacted my life. He didn't realize how valuable it was to me to see him interact with his son and daughter. I was amazed that his children actually seemed to like their dad. They even would talk back to him.

Me, talk back to my dad... never. I'll tell you one horror story of my abuse....of my reality as a child.

So Mr. Carol, if you ever read this, or his children, knows that I learned tons by your interactions with your children. You were teaching me to become "Boston Strong".



be Boston Strong, to be the role model for my siblings. One advantage of being poor was the grants I was able to get to go to college. My first semester was going terrifically until Dec 6th when my grandmother died. My grandmother knew my pain, more than anyone. My grandma and I were very close...I honor her having named my first daughter Elizabeth after her. I was devastated by my grandmother's passing and couldn't continue with my studies and dropped out of school. One of my friends got a job working at the employment office in NYC and the hiring manager made me the boss of 5 or so heroin addicts. At the end of the eighteen-month project I was a full-blown

ity to box came in handy as I threw the caseworker against the wall and threatened his life if he took our sister away. I am happy to say that today my sister is very much in my life. I was again becoming Boston Strong. I knew I had to change my life, I had to be strong and be the role model for my siblings...all we had was each other. I had to get out of NY, to get clean. I had to get away from all my junkie friends who wanted me to stay like them....nothing. This coming January I will celebrate 35 years clean from morphine and 7 years clean and sober.

I sit here on Moomba Beach, Aruba, basking in the glow of the beautiful Aruban sunrise and the

I just want to have a place for my family to come to be together.

I am writing a book about my life where I will go into detail about some of the other amazing people that changed my family's life. For years I was a very bitter angry person and still struggle to remind myself how much worse my life could have been were it not for a few people. One such person was Bob Carol. Mr. Carol was my Big Brother from the Big Brother/Big Sister program. For about a year he would take me to his house and I would just hang out like a member of his family. We became matched when my father was in jail else my father would have prevented our get-togethers.

Continued on page 15



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known for fun and craziness, so it was only logical Chef Marc Hernandez likes to go wild when it comes to his cooking. Caught in the morning, served at night is the true Bugaloe way, maybe this explains its popularity from the start. Crazy Fish Monday is served from 5.30 p.m. till 10 p.m. Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is open daily from 9 a.m. till midnight. Start your day of right with a delicious cappuccino, or walk in to enjoy

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Theo Bakacs: A Big Brother Making A Difference

Continued from page 15

I was observing your life knowing that someday I wanted to have children that were not afraid to talk back to me. And, I am blessed to say, I do. This past January I got a call from this woman named Kelli. She asked if I was related to Lazlo Bakacs. I said "Yes, he is my father. Why do you ask?" You see, I hadn't seen my father in almost forty-five years and had assumed he was dead knowing the life he led. She said that she was the daughter of the woman my father was with when he died last November. She said that she was sorry to tell me the bad news...I said something to the effect of her not knowing my dad very well if she thought it was bad news. I told Kelly that I had been looking for my father my whole life to kill him. He died alone and sad and I'm sure what happened to his five kids. I told Kelli that my father missed knowing that all five of his kids grew up to become productive members of society. They all went to college, got married and have their own homes. Most importantly, none of us beat our kids. And me, I joined the Air Force, and even retired after 23 years. I graduated from college and married my childhood sweetheart. I have three daughters: Elizabeth graduated Magna Cum Laude from Georgetown and is study-

ing Medicine at NYU. Emily is a junior at NorthEastern and Sara is a freshman in High School.

I became Boston Strong, long before the bombing, and continue to become stronger. I am raising money to start the Big Brothers/Big Sister's program in Aruba. I love Aruba and the Aruban people and see that there is a big need for such a program here in Aruba. I have had a number of conversations with BB/BS International in Dallas TX, and they want to roll out BB/BS in all the Caribbean.

In my late twenties I tried to find my big brother Mr. Carol to thank him and to tell him what he did for me and my family. But, no luck. In 1968 there was no internet or records of matches. To thank Mr. Carol I decided to become a Big myself and was matched with a little boy Adam for about 10 years until he joined the marines. I was honored as the Big Brother of the Year for New England and feted in Washington DC.

So if you are reading this because you are considering buying my shirt, know that a portion is going to help children in Aruba and eventually the entire Caribbean. And if you want to really make a difference in a child's life...consider becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister. For more information you may email me at: relaxinaruba@gmail.com or call me at: 6613450. I will be on the island until October 24th.

Scott and Tina honored by ATA at Manchebo Beach Resort



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple who are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, as Distinguished Visitors, at the Manchebo Beach Resort. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for



10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Scott and Tina McGinn from Fishers Indiana, USA. Scott and Tina fell in love with Aruba since the first time they visit the Island, and they also love the friendly people of Aruba, the Manchebo, the weather, beaches, restau-

rants, and Aruba feels like a second home and the people are like a family to them. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with staff members and management from the Manchebo Beach Resort.



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-  Right of way road
-  End of right of way road
-  Right of way at intersection
-  Oncoming traffic has
right of way
-  Stop. Right of way ahead
-  Do not pass
-  No Left turn
-  No Right turn





Bears' Hester ties mark with 19th return TD

The Associated Press
Roy Helu's third touch-
down, a 3-yard run with
45 seconds to play Sun-
day, lifted the Washington
Redskins past the Chicago
Bears 45-41 win.
Robert Griffin III completed
18 of 29 passes for 298 yards
with two touchdowns and
one interception for the
Redskins (2-4), who have
both of their wins against
backup quarterbacks. This
time it was Josh McCown,
who entered in the second
quarter after Jay Cutler left
with a groin injury.
Griffin also ran 11 times
for a season-high 84 yards
against a defense de-
pleted by injuries, but the
breakout performance
came from rookie tight end
Jordan Reed, who caught
nine passes for 134 yards
and one touchdown.
McCown, playing in a
regular-season game for
the first time since the 2011
season, completed 14 of
20 passes for 204 yards
with one touchdown.

Continued on Page 21



Chicago Bears wide receiver Devin Hester turns and looks at his teammate free safety Anthony Walters after scoring this 19th touchdown on a kickoff return during the first half of a NFL football game against the Washington Redskins in Landover, Md., Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013. Associated Press

A-Rod's lawyer wants Manfred testimony released

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - One of Alex Rodriguez's lawyers wants Major League Baseball to release testimony about whether Commissioner Bud Selig knew Anthony Bosch distributed banned substances to teenagers.

Rob Manfred, baseball's chief operating officer, testified last week during the grievance filed by the players' union to overturn Rodriguez's 211-game suspension.

A person familiar with the hearing, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press on



In this Oct. 1, 2013, file photo, New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez arrives at the offices of Major League Baseball for grievance hearing in New York.

Associated Press

Saturday that Manfred testified the sport wasn't concerned whether Bosch

distributed performance-enhancing drugs to minors because MLB's interest was his relationship with players under investigation.

Baseball suspended 13 players last summer following its investigation of Bosch's now-closed Biogenesis of America anti-aging clinic. Rodriguez received the lengthiest penalty and was the only one in the group to contest his discipline. Manfred said he explained during his testimony that MLB's focus was on whether players violated the sport's drug agreement or labor contract. He also said MLB had been a leader in prevent-

ing steroid abuse by youth. "While Mr. Manfred has violated the confidentiality requirements of the collective bargaining agreement by making reference to his testimony, we choose to live up to our obligations," Joseph Tacopina, one of Rodriguez's lawyers, said in a statement Sunday. "However, Mr. Manfred knows that he has not accurately described his testimony. We therefore call on him to put forward his full testimony at the hearing about his and commissioner Selig's knowledge of, and relative regard for, Mr. Bosch's dealing performance enhancing drugs

to minors at the time MLB struck its cooperation and indemnity deal with Mr. Bosch." Speaking Sunday, Manfred blamed Rodriguez's side for the release of information from the hearing. "There have been numerous and ongoing leaks from Mr. Tacopina and other members of the Rodriguez camp," he said. "We have made limited responses to correct the inaccuracies that have been put out by those associated with Mr. Rodriguez. It is ironic that Mr. Tacopina would have the temerity to complain about breaches of the confidentiality agreement." □

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Michael Allen wins Greater Hickory Classic

CONOVER, N.C. (AP) -- Michael Allen was more than willing to work a little overtime Sunday at Rock Barn. "I got off to a good start this year, but the rest of the year has been up and down," Allen said after beating Olin Browne in a playoff in the Greater Hickory Classic. "It's been a frustrating year overall. At the end of the year, I really wanted to have a good finish. I really want to win a few tournaments ... but today turned out to be an exciting finish." Allen won his second Champions Tour title of the year and fifth overall, birdieing the first extra hole. Allen closed with a 5-under 65, also birdieing the par-5

18th in regulation to match Browne at 13-under 197. Browne shot a 64, charging to the lead with seven birdies over a nine-hole stretch. "I got off to a little bit of a slow start," Browne said. "But I had that great run, and gave myself a chance. One more putt here or there, and I would have had no worries." In the playoff, Allen put his second shot within 10 feet, and Browne hooked his second shot badly into the rough off the green. Allen's eagle putt just lipped out, and he tapped in for birdie. Browne missed a 40-foot putt for birdie and settled for par. Second-round leader Bernhard Langer had a 69 to

finish third at 11 under. He cut Kenny Perry's lead in the Charles Schwab Cup standings to 394 points with two events remaining. Perry, who entered the tournament with a 609-point lead, tied for 20th at 4 under after a 69. Allen, playing in the lead group with Langer and Brad Bryant, said he didn't know Browne had taken the lead until the final three or four holes. He wound up birdieing two of the final three holes in regulation to make up a two-shot deficit and force the playoff. "All of a sudden, here comes Olin," Allen said. "I thought I was going to be battling with Bernhard



Michael Allen tees off on the 16th hole Sunday, July 14, 2013, in the final round of the U.S. Senior Open golf tournament in Omaha, Neb.

Associated Press

... but it wasn't until I got to 16 or 17 that I knew he was leading. So I had to be more aggressive on my putts." Allen earned \$240,000. □



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Serena Williams in group with Petra Kvitova

The Associated Press
Top-ranked titleholder Serena Williams will face former winner Petra Kvitova in her group at the WTA Championships, which start Tuesday in Istanbul.

Sunday's draw for the event that brings together the top eight players in the world also put Agnieszka Radwanska and Angelique Kerber in Williams' Red Group.

Second-ranked Victoria Azarenka heads the White Group, which also includes Li Na, Sara Errani and Jelena Jankovic. Third-ranked Maria Sharapova pulled out of the event because of a shoulder injury.

Williams, making her eighth appearance in the event, is looking to become the first player to successfully defend the title since Justine Henin in 2007. If she achieves the feat, she would tie Chris Evert for third most WTA Championships with her fourth.

"It's a tough group. I have to be ready. That's the thing about this tournament and why it's so tough, you have to be ready from the first match on," Williams said.

Williams heads into the tournament with a career-best 10 titles this year and a 73-4 record.

Kvitova won the event in 2011 and is the only Grand Slam champion in the group, apart from Williams.

"Both of the groups are very tough and I don't think you can choose anyone who you think is weaker," Kvitova said. "This means that it's going to be a big fight every day, every match."

Azarenka and Jankovic are former No. 1 players in the world and Li and Azarenka are also Grand Slam champions.

"It's the best eight players in the world. Anybody who is here is going to be a challenge," Azarenka said. Jankovic has returned to



Tennis star Serena Williams of the U.S poses during a meeting with the media in Istanbul, Turkey, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013. World's top tennis players will compete in the TEB BNP Paribas WTA Championships in Istanbul, Oct. 22-27.

Associated Press

the top 10 for the first time since 2010. "Playing the championships, you are playing against the best players in the world so there is no easy match, so every

match will be tough from the beginning," Jankovic said. "There is no warm up. There is no getting your rhythm. You have to bring your best performance

from the start to the end." Round-robin play runs from Tuesday to Friday, with the top two in each group advancing to Saturday's semifinals. □

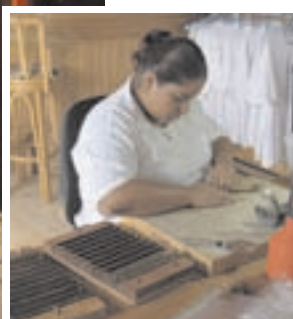
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. With any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. Aruhiba gift boxes are now available at Dufry Shop at the Airport.



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NFL Capsules

Continued from Page 18

Matt Forte rushed for three touchdowns, Alshon Jeffery had 105 yards receiving, and Devin Hester tied Deion Sanders' NFL record for return touchdowns with an 81-yard put runback for the Bears (4-3).

JETS 30, PATRIOTS 27, OT EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Nick Folk kicked a 42-yard field goal with 5:07 left in overtime. Folk got a second chance after he missed a 56-yarder moments earlier. But Chris Jones was called for unsportsmanlike conduct for pushing a teammate forward to try to block the kick, a new NFL rule.

New York, given new life, ran the ball three times to set up Folk's winner.

Geno Smith threw a touchdown pass and ran for another score as the Jets (4-3)



New York Jets kicker Nick Folk (2) reacts after kicking the game winning field goal during overtime of the NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013 in East Rutherford, N.J. The Jets won the game 30-27.

Associated Press

topped Tom Brady and the Patriots (5-2). New England tied it at 27 with 16 seconds left in regulation on Stephen Gostkowski's 44-yard field goal.

New England had defeated New York in six straight regular-season meetings, and saw its 12-game winning streak against the AFC East end.

BENGALS 27, LIONS 24

DETROIT (AP) — Mike Nugent's 54-yard field goal as time expired lifted the Bengals. The AFC North-leading Bengals (5-2) won a game for the second straight week by the same score thanks to Nugent's right foot. He made an overtime kick to give Cincinnati a win after it blew a 14-point, fourth-quarter lead at Buffalo.

The Lions (4-3) looked like they did enough to send the game to OT, but rookie Sam Martin shanked a punt just 28 yards to mid-field in the final minute.

Andy Dalton, who threw three touchdown passes, took advantage with two short passes to set up the winning field goal.

Detroit's Matthew Stafford connected with Calvin Johnson on two of his three TD passes.

COWBOYS 17, EAGLES 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Tony Romo threw for 317 yards and one touchdown and the Cowboys overcame a sluggish start to take sole possession of first place in the NFC East.

Two teams that averaged a combined 58 points per game and allowed a combined 55 totaled 13 punts in a first half that ended with Dallas (4-3) leading 3-0. It was more two inept offenses than two dominant defenses.

The Eagles (3-4) have lost a franchise-worst nine straight games at home. Their last win at the Linc was over the New York Giants on Sept. 30, 2012. □

MacKinnon, Crosby set to meet for 1st time in NHL

JIM LACHIMIA

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Nathan MacKinnon has been compared with Sidney Crosby for much of his life. The two grew up in the same Canadian town and both went No. 1 in the NHL draft.

Now they get to take a much closer look at each other.

MacKinnon and the Colorado Avalanche visit Crosby and the Pittsburgh Penguins on Monday night in the first NHL matchup of the pride of Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia.

The Avalanche and Penguins are each off to 7-1 starts, with MacKinnon and Crosby playing key roles. The 26-year-old Crosby has seven goals and 10 assists for a league-best 17 points. MacKinnon, who turned 18 on Sept. 1, has a goal and

six assists.

MacKinnon has described Crosby as the best player in the world and said the center is "on fire right now." But MacKinnon is focused on what he needs to do to help the Avalanche get another win.

"You sometimes get to enjoy and watch some good players when you're playing against them," he said. "But when you're out there, you don't worry about who you're playing against. You worry about what you have to do."

Crosby knows a lot about what MacKinnon is going through in his first year in the NHL. Crosby, who was the No. 1 pick in the 2005 draft, faced high expectations when he was an 18-year-old rookie and had 102 points in his first season with Pittsburgh.

MacKinnon became one of the league's top prospects when he starred for Halifax of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League in the previous two seasons. He was the most valuable player of the Memorial Cup in May, leading his team to the title.

"Obviously he skates really well, and I don't think you see too many young guys that can shoot the puck like he can in their first year," Crosby said. "I think he's got a great shot. I think he's got all the tools — really good hands, he works hard, and he's not afraid to go into traffic areas and create chances that way. So I think he gives himself a lot of opportunities to create things."

The Avalanche struggled during last year's lockout-shortened season, but they



Colorado Avalanche center Nathan MacKinnon (29) tangles for the puck with Dallas Stars center Cody Eakin (20) in the second period of an NHL hockey game in Denver on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013.

Associated Press

have been one of the league's surprise teams so far this year under new coach Patrick Roy, a Hall of Fame goaltender.

Penguins coach Dan Bylsma said he expects to see a young team with fresh legs and a lot of speed on Monday night, and MacKinnon is certainly part of that mix.

Hailing from the same hometown as one of the NHL's best players puts a lot of pressure on a rising player. But Crosby believes guys such as MacKinnon and Seth Jones — a defenseman who was the Nashville Predators' first-round draft pick this year — are better prepared for the NHL due to their extensive experience coming into the league.

"Both (MacKinnon) and Seth Jones were talked about for a long time," Crosby said. "They've been through everything — World Cup, World Juniors, and all that stuff. □



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McMurray wins largely clean race at Talladega

PAUL NEWBERRY

AP National Writer

TALLADEGA, Alabama (AP)

— Jamie McMurray won at Talladega Superspeedway in a nearly clean race until rookie Austin Dillon lost control on the final lap Sunday, allowing the winner to coast across the line under caution.

McMurray won for the first time in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series since 2010, not even having to worry about an expected charge from Dale Earnhardt Jr. after Dillon spun coming out of the second turn. The only other driver collected in the crash was Casey Mears, who slammed into Dillon's car and sent it flying into the air before it came back down upright.

A race known for massive crashes was essentially trouble free. There was a minor wreck early on when Marcos Ambrose got loose in front of the main grandstand and took out Juan Pablo Montoya, and 103 consecutive laps under green until the yellow and checkered flag waved together at the end.

Earnhardt settled for second, followed by Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Paul Menard and Kyle Busch.



Sprint Cup Series driver Jamie McMurray celebrates after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at the Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala., Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013.

Associated Press

Dillon, who was filling in for injured Tony Stewart in the No. 14 car, wound up 26th after going to the final lap in third.

"Every race here, we have a wreck on the last lap," Earnhardt said. "For some reason, though, it was a lot calmer the last few laps. Everybody was pretty good about staying in line."

Jimmie Johnson steered around trouble and finished 13th, emerging from the race with the lead in

the Sprint Cup standings. The five-time Cup champion passed Matt Kenseth for the top spot and has a four-point edge with four races remaining.

Kenseth finished 20th. Busch and Kevin Harvick are tied for third, 26 points behind Johnson, with Jeff Gordon — who had hoped Talladega's unpredictable nature might help him make a big push — made up only two points and is 34 off the lead.

After running strong early in the 188-lap race, Kenseth dealt with an ill-handling car and lost several spots when he attempted to make a move late in the race. "It was really bizarre," he said. "Typically handling is a non-issue here. We just got loose and I couldn't even hang on to it. I pretty much had to run in the back for two runs, which was disappointing. We finally got it fixed that last run, but we only had 20 laps to

get back up there. I really needed to be up there like we were early and feeling I was controlling the race more."

McMurray, who isn't part of the Chase, won for Earnhardt Ganassi Racing and took a phone call in victory lane from car owner Chip Ganassi, still in California celebrating Scott Dixon's championship in the IndyCar series the previous night.

Earnhardt, a huge fan favorite at Talladega, had hoped to make his move going down the back straightaway on the final lap. He never got the chance. "Our car was a rocket," Earnhardt said. "I was moving around a little bit to see where I thought the 1 (McMurray) might be going. You've got to sort of fake him out. But I looked in the rearview mirror and I saw guys all over the place. 'I guess if we're in that situation next time,' he added, 'we'll try to go a lap sooner.'"

McMurray clearly has a knack for restrictor-plate race. He has won twice each at Daytona and Talladega, accounting for more than half of his seven career victories. □

Phelps back at the pool, still mum on comeback

PAUL NEWBERRY

AP National Writer

Michael Phelps has been working out with his former coach but is still not ready to announce a much-speculated comeback to swimming in time for the Rio Olympics

Bob Bowman told The Associated Press on Sunday that Phelps has been swimming

occasionally with the North Baltimore Aquatic Club, but mainly as a means of getting into better shape. Phelps and Bowman remain close friends and business partners.

After winning 18 gold and 22 Olympic medals overall, Phelps announced his retirement from swimming after the 2012 London

Games.

Initially adamant he would never compete again, Phelps softened his stance this past summer after reports began swirling of an imminent comeback. He told the AP during the world championships in Barcelona that he doesn't "know what's going to happen in the future." □



Former U.S. Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps waves to the spectators during a 2013-2014 NBA preseason game between Los Angeles Lakers and Golden State Warriors at Mercedes-Benz Arena in Shanghai, China, Friday, Oct. 18, 2013.

Associated Press



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Review: Finding football online can be tough

By BREE FOWLER

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Getting your sports fix can be tough if you don't root for the home team.

When my husband and I moved to New York from Detroit, we were faced with the challenge of how to watch our beloved Tigers, Red Wings and Lions, along with college football teams. Bars can get expensive - and are impractical with a kid.

I looked to the Internet for help, but found my options for football to be limited. It's better with baseball and hockey.

PRO FOOTBALL

Most out-of-market NFL games are available only through DirecTV, which pays about \$1 billion annually for the rights to show them. A basic NFL Sunday Ticket subscription costs \$225 for the season. But if you want to watch games on your computer, smartphone or tablet, you'll need to pay an additional \$75 for NFL Sunday Ticket Max.

If you don't have DirecTV service, you can still sign up for an online and mobile subscription, but it'll cost you \$300 for the season, the same price DirecTV satellite TV subscribers pay for Sunday Ticket Max. It is pricey, but nice for cable TV subscribers to have that option.

After I installed the Sunday Ticket app on my iPad, I was able to easily flip back and forth between games. All of the day's scores are displayed on the left. If you touch one, it brings up live coverage of that game.

Unfortunately, users can only log in to one device at a time, which means I can't watch the Lions on my iPad while my husband

catches the Saints game on his phone. There also isn't an option for a split screen, as there is with the TV version of Sunday Ticket. Other features, such as standings, player stats and a list of game highlights, are displayed at the bottom of the screen. You can also switch to full-screen mode and use the entire tablet screen to watch the game.

Watching on the iPad is like watching on a small TV. The picture was sharp, and I could tell who had the ball. The video was sharp on my iPhone 4S, too, and I could follow the action. But it grew tiring after a while. Football isn't meant to be watched on a tiny screen. The app works on iPhones, iPads and Android devices. You can watch games on a traditional computer, too, which could be nice if you're stuck at the office on a Sunday afternoon.

One alternative to DirecTV is the official NFL Mobile app. The basic version is free and includes news, scores, team information and alerts. For \$5 a month, Verizon Wireless subscribers can upgrade to a premium version that includes live video of the Thursday, Sunday and Monday night games.

This can be great if you're running around town or don't get TV through a cable or satellite provider. Only the Sunday night game is broadcast over the air for free, on NBC.

As with the DirecTV app, video on NFL Mobile is remarkably clear. However, Verizon's license to stream the games is good only for smartphones, so watching on your tablet isn't an option, even though the app itself works there.

The NFL does sell an audio-



This Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013 image made from an NFL Sunday Ticket computer tablet app shows highlights from the football game between the New Orleans Saints and the New England Patriots played on Sunday, Oct. 13, 2013 in Foxborough, Mass. via DirecTV.

only package. It's \$25 for the season for one team's game, or \$30 for the entire league. There are also packages ranging from \$30 to \$70 that give you access to video replays of NFL games, but no live audio or video coverage.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Watching college games online is cheaper and easier, especially if you already pay for cable or satellite TV. The free Watch ESPN app lets you watch anything being shown live on a handful of ESPN channels, as long as your TV provider participates.

But ESPN doesn't show every big game. My husband, a football-crazed Louisiana State University graduate, was out of luck recently when he wanted to watch LSU's thriller of a game against Georgia while at my sister's wedding reception. There was no TV to watch it on CBS, and he didn't know its free sports app streamed the game.

Some of my Michigan State games are shown on the Big Ten Network, which I

pay my cable provider extra to receive. As part of the deal, I get access to the channel's BTN2Go app, which offers live streaming video. Michigan State also has its own free app that supplies streaming audio of football games and other sports.

In short, it's hit or miss. Fans of the big schools will have an easier time finding their games online than fans of smaller, unranked teams.

BASEBALL AND HOCKEY

Fortunately, it's a lot easier to watch other sports online.

For the past two baseball seasons, my husband and I have been happy to pay for MLB TV so we could watch the Detroit Tigers. A basic subscription costs \$110 for the full season. That lets you watch pretty much any out-of-market major league game live in high definition on your home computer. You also get game highlights and stats.

For an additional \$20 a season, you can watch games through your tablet

or smartphone or on your TV through streaming devices such as Apple TV and Roku. Radio broadcasts are also available, which can be great if you're worried about battery life or out for a long walk.

Fans of out-of-town teams benefit most. Video broadcasts of local and nationally broadcast games are blocked, so if your team is playing nearby or on national TV, you're going to have to find a TV. Radio broadcasts aren't affected. The video blackouts include the playoffs that are going on right now. There's a separate package for minor league baseball.

For hockey, the NHL's GameCenter Live offers many of the same features as baseball. It currently sells for \$150.

Although tuning it to watch my favorite teams may not be as easy as it was when I lived in Michigan, today's online offerings make it a lot easier and might even help me drag my super fan of a husband away from the TV. □



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AP source: US govt, JPMorgan reach tentative deal

PETE YOST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — JPMorgan Chase & Co. has tentatively agreed to pay \$13 billion to settle allegations surrounding the quality of mortgage-backed securities it sold in the run-up

to the 2008 financial crisis, a person familiar with the negotiations between the bank and the federal government said Saturday. If the agreement is finalized it would be the government's highest-profile enforcement action related

to the financial meltdown that plunged the economy into the deepest recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been finalized, said Attor-

ney General Eric Holder, Associate Attorney General Tony West, J.P. Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon and the bank's general counsel, Stephen Cutler, negotiated the tentative settlement in a Friday night phone call.

The person said the tentative agreement does not resolve a criminal investigation of the bank's conduct. It is being handled by federal prosecutors in Sacramento, California.

On Friday night, Holder told the bank that a non-prosecution agreement was a non-starter — meaning that the Justice Department will continue to conduct the criminal investigation of the financial institution, said the person. As part of the deal, the Justice Department expects JPMorgan to cooperate with the continuing criminal probe of the bank's issuance of mortgage-backed securities between 2005 and 2007, the person said.

JPMorgan spokesman Brian Marchiony and Justice Department spokesman Brian Fallon declined to comment.

Of the \$13 billion, \$9 billion is fines or penalties and \$4 billion will go to consumer relief for struggling homeowners, the person said. When the housing bubble burst in 2007, bundles of mortgages sold as securities soured and the investors who bought them lost billions. In the aftermath, public outrage boiled over that no high-level Wall Street executives had been sent to jail. Some lawmakers and other critics demanded that the big bailed-out banks and senior executives be held accountable. In response, the government in January 2012 set up a task force of federal and state law enforcement officials to pursue wrongdoing with regard to mortgage securities. In September, JPMorgan agreed to pay \$920 million and admit that it failed to oversee trading that led to a \$6 billion loss last year in its London operation. That combined amount, in settlements with three regulators in the U.S. and one in Britain, is one of the largest fines ever levied against a financial institution. In another case, the company agreed to pay a \$100 million penalty and admitted that its traders acted "recklessly" with the London trades.

In August, the Justice Department accused Bank of America Corp., the second-largest U.S. bank, of civil fraud in failing to disclose risks and misleading investors in its sale of \$850 million in mortgage bonds in 2008. The Securities and Exchange Commission filed a related lawsuit. The government estimates that investors lost more than \$100 million on the deal. Bank of America disputes the allegations. □



JPMorgan Chase Chairman, President and CEO Jamie Dimon, arrives at the Justice Department in Washington. JPMorgan Chase & Co. has tentatively agreed to pay \$13 billion to settle allegations surrounding the quality of mortgage-backed securities it sold in the run-up to the 2008 financial crisis, a person familiar with the negotiations between the bank and the federal government said Saturday.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

US market for used cars is cooling

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RIVERSIDE, Calif. - It was 9:30 on a recent Tuesday morning at Manheim Riverside, a wholesale auto auction, and more than a thousand used-car dealers were mulling in the desert heat. The bidders had gathered on the perimeters of Manheim's 10 lanes of cars, watching the vehicles cycle through 10 auction blocks, at no longer than 45 seconds a pop. Over a collective din that drowns out the auctioneers, the

dealers wink, nod or, for the less stealthy, raise a hand to indicate their bid. The wholesale auction is just one of the hundreds across the country that set the pace - and the price - for most Americans who buy used cars. Often viewed as an afterthought, the used-car market is far larger than the one for new vehicles, with more than double the sales, and automakers pay close attention to the ebb and flow of its prices. And those prices are about

to decline from some unusually high levels, analysts say. During the recession, consumers stopped buying new vehicles and automakers trimmed production, eventually creating a shortage of the most sought-after used vehicles - later models with low mileage. Used-car prices surged. But prices are beginning to moderate from those heady days when dealers scrambled just to find used cars to sell. Then, the monthly payments on a

used car could equal the payments on a similar new car because of interest rates and financing terms, and because of robust demand from consumers.

The average price of a used car surged 10 percent, to \$16,474 in 2010 from \$14,976 in 2009, according to the National Automobile Dealers Association. In the first seven months of this year, the average price climbed 2 percent, to \$17,926, over the same period last year. □

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STREET BRIEFS

Company to begin Guyana mining work

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — A Canadian company is getting ready to launch what has been touted as the largest private mining investment for the South American country of Guyana. Toronto-based Guyana Goldfields Inc. said Saturday that the Aurora Gold Project will cost some \$205 million and is expected to produce some 3.3 million ounces (94 million grams) of gold as part of a 20-year deal. The company says it is buying heavy-duty equipment and will soon build permanent housing at the mining site in western Guyana. Actual mining is slated to begin in early 2015. Gold is Guyana's leading export. Local miners produced more than 400,000 ounces (11.3 million grams) of gold last year.

NYSE will hold a 'dry run' for Twitter's IPO

KEN SWEET
AP Markets Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Stock Exchange isn't taking any chances with Twitter's initial public offering. The Big Board said it would allow trading firms to conduct a dry run of their systems to prepare for Twitter's IPO. The NYSE test will occur on Saturday, Oct. 26, according to a notice sent out to traders. The exchange seems to want to avoid the technical problems that marred Facebook's debut on the Nasdaq Stock Exchange in May 2012. □

Sullivan Column:

Understanding donors as giving season begins

PAUL SULLIVAN

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We have entered giving season. This is the time of year when charities increase their outreach to donors who traditionally wait to the fourth quarter to make annual gifts. And

to give money to a charity it is not because they are worried about giving away money that they might need.

- Finding just one charity or cause to focus on is hard, but it is more rewarding than giving a little money

the conversation is too technically oriented," said Ken Nopar, a philanthropic consultant based in Chicago. "They want to talk about family goals and charitable giving." Claire Costello, head of philanthropy for U.S. Trust, said

nizations had reported little increase in gifts from last year, except among people who were giving \$1 million or more. As of early October, those gifts are twice what they were at this time last year, the report says.

Yet a shift is happening for smaller donors, too. The United Way is still No. 1 for gifts received, but Fidelity Charitable, the nation's largest donor-advised fund is a close second, the report says. Its contributions grew by nearly 90 percent last year.

Donor-advised funds allow people of different wealth levels to get a tax deduction the year they put the money in their fund and recommend gifts, sometimes as small as \$50, later. It is a popular vehicle for someone who wants to give money to charity and get the deduction that year but could use some advice on how to parcel out the money.

And what this means is that people need advice. Henry Goldstein, a principal at the Oram Group, said he saw a growing need for philanthropic counseling that was not linked to money management if donors were going to understand the groups to which they were giving.

"To name a wing at a hospital may not be the best use of funds," he said. "The name goes on the building, but the money goes somewhere else. That's OK if they know it, but often they don't have the time to do the due diligence."

The take-away: Don't stay quiet if your financial advisers talk past you about all the financial structures around giving - interrupt and tell them what you need help on. □



Ike Brown, president and vice-chairman of NFI, a privately-held transportation company, with his wife, Carolyn, in Irving, Texas, Oct. 18, 2013. The Brown's are donating money to the Dallas Holocaust Museum Center for Education and Tolerance, giving insight as to how people give money and why they sometimes don't.

(Rex C. Curry/The New York Times)

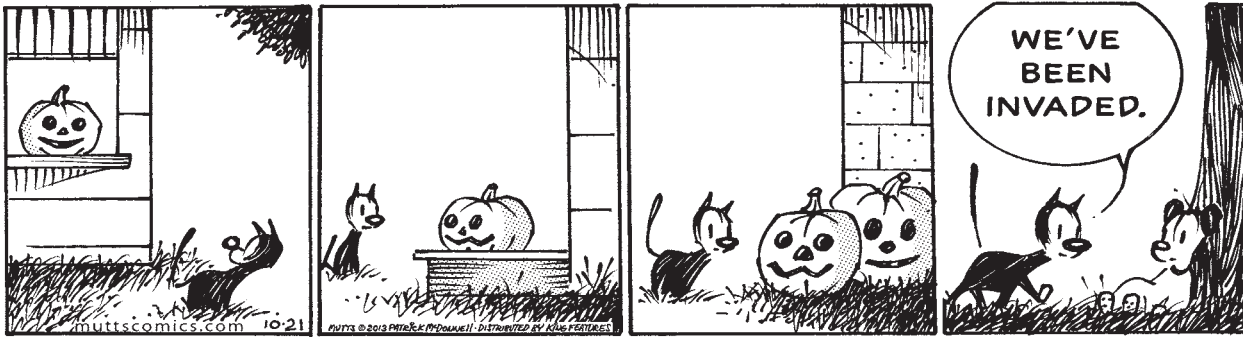
what would this season be without research into the state of our giving habits? Yet a new report by U.S. Trust, which revisited questions asked two decades ago, piqued my interest because it challenged some of the accepted wisdom about how people give money - or at least how most of us think they give their money away:

- The advice they're getting is not the advice they want.
- Tax rates matter very little when donors are making a gift.
- When people are hesitant

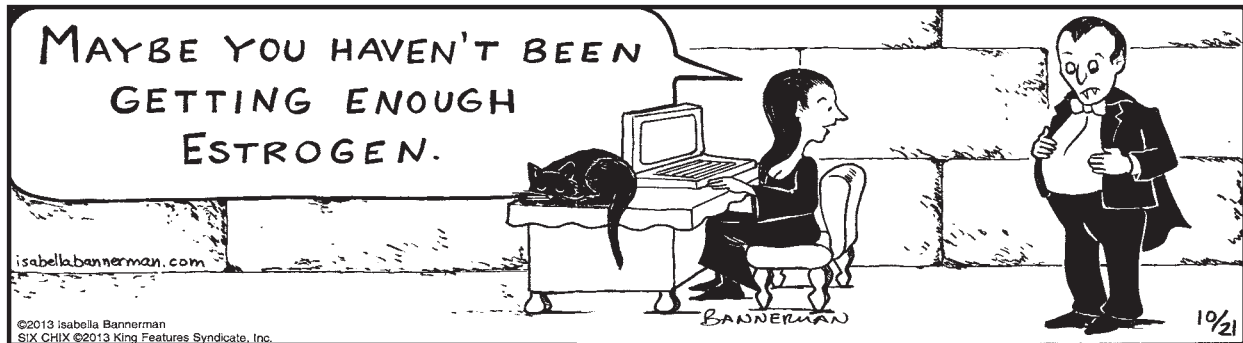
to every group - or friend - that asks for a donation. The report's findings have relevance to donors at many levels who seek a greater understanding of what their gifts are doing. When donors and financial advisers discuss philanthropic giving, it seems to resemble a John Gray book: One is from Mars, the other from Venus. Donors want to talk about their interests, while their advisers tend to talk about the various technical ways to make a donation, like giving appreciated stock. "The clients always think

the mismatch came from advisers who were unsure about their philanthropic knowledge so they stuck with offering the technical advice they were more comfortable with. "They fear they don't know enough," she said. "Or they worry that they're not charitable and will be exposed. Or they're very charitable and they fear they'll be seen as preaching." This mismatch has implications. In its annual survey of charitable donations to be released Monday, The Chronicle of Philanthropy said the 400 largest orga-

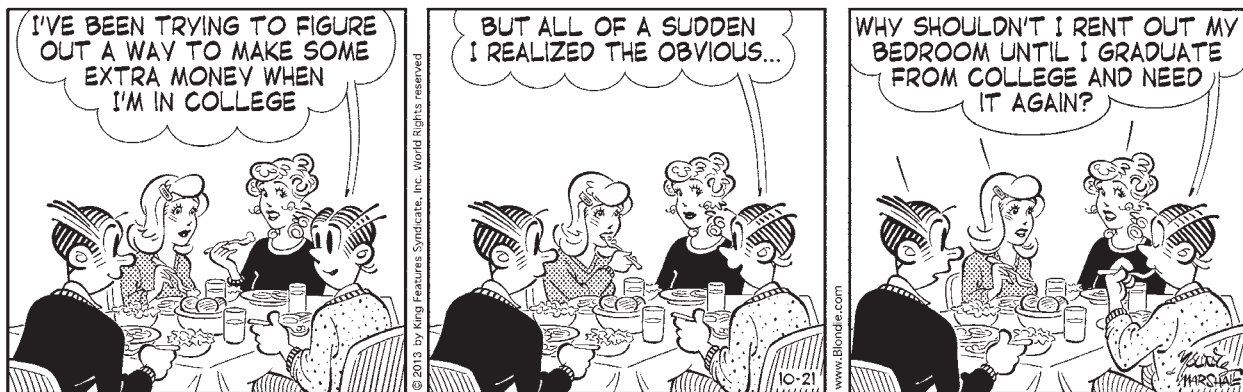
Mutts



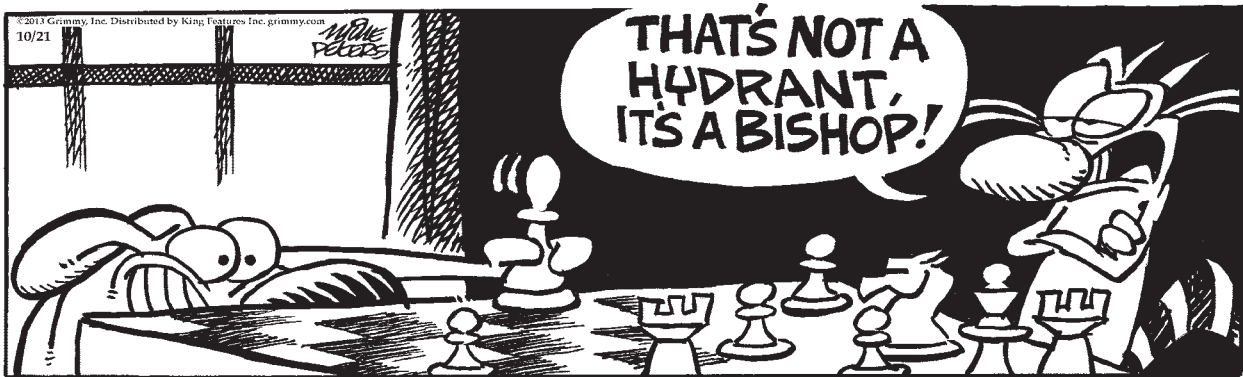
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Blondie



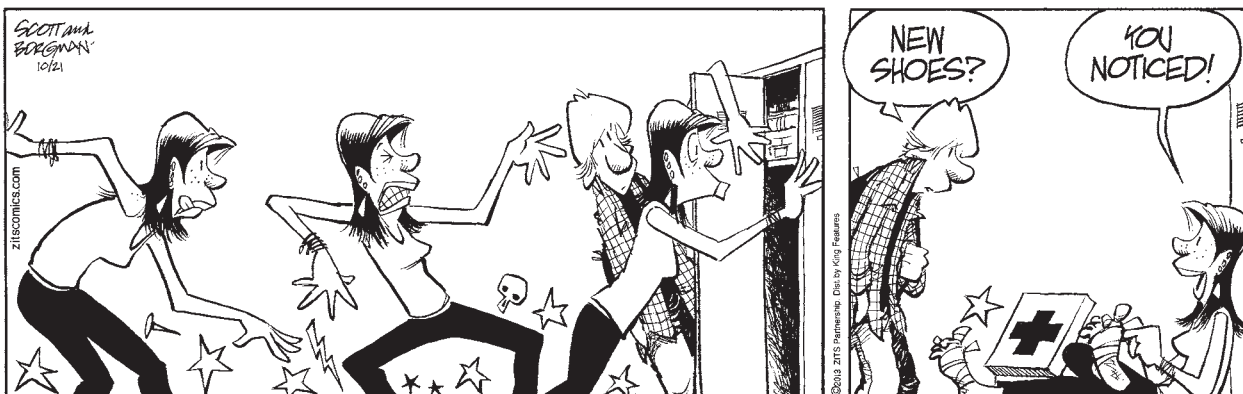
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8		6		3		1	
9		5		7		4		6
	6						9	
6			2		7			8
	7			8			6	
3			9		5			2
	5						7	
4		3		2		1		5
	2		1		9		3	

Difficulty Level ★

10/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	6	7	9	3	1	2	8	4
2	4	3	8	7	6	1	5	9
8	1	9	4	2	5	3	7	6
4	7	8	5	9	3	6	2	1
1	9	2	7	6	8	5	4	3
6	3	5	1	4	2	8	9	7
3	5	4	6	8	9	7	1	2
9	8	6	2	1	7	4	3	5
7	2	1	3	5	4	9	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

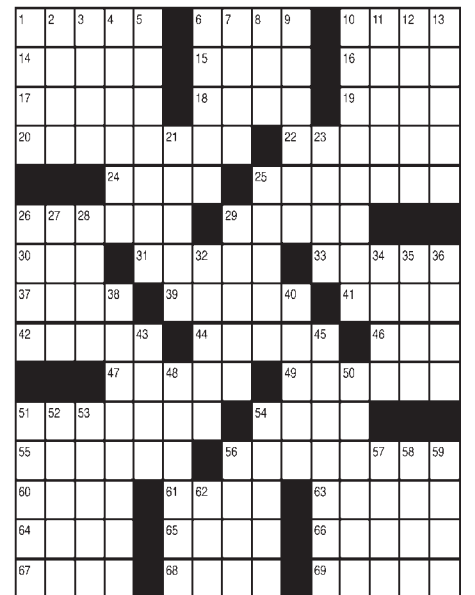
10/19

ACROSS

- Mulgrew and Middleton
- Reach across
- One of the Three Bears
- Milan's nation
- Hearty
- Like fine wine
- Shoe bottoms
- Snakes in the Nile region
- Use a Kindle
- Ghosts
- In a ___; dazed
- Take care of
- Sowed
- Watery part of the blood
- San __, Calif.
- Debtor's note
- Contempt
- Prolonged attack
- Chicken of the Sea product
- Engagement
- Tyne or Tim
- Upper room
- Sadness; despondency
- So-so grade
- Of the countryside
- Wall recesses
- Immeasurable number
- Kid around
- Hot dog topper, for some
- Goes on stage
- Boast
- Up to the task
- Sir __ Newton
- Part of the foot
- Daytime serial
- ___ firma; dry land
- Putin's "No!"
- ___ Christian Andersen
- Derisive smile
- Tiny Hershey's chocolate piece
- Perched upon
- Story

DOWN

- Watches
- Like an irrefutable alibi
- Respect highly
- Actor's signals
- Oddballs
- Discuss again
- ___ few; select
- Of the city
- ___ Christmas!"
- Location
- Army vehicles
- Think ahead
- Uncommon
- Colt's mother
- Mark left after surgery
- Feathery scarf



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/21/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

GRAY	UBOAT	ACHY
LOPE	REUSE	BLUE
AMOS	BASKETBALL	
DEC	PAST	RENAL
	AGENT	PAS
SALUTE	TUCSON	
ABYSS	THICK	VAN
RAPT	CHECK	LEVI
ASS	PRANK	DEREK
HEBREW	MUSCLE	
	LOW	LEASH
BOSUN	LULL	AWE
APPRENTICE	FROG	
BEER	AWARE	AGOG
ANDY	GOES	REDS

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10/21/13

Restive over low prices: Lobstermen at odds in Maine and Canada

IAN AUSTEN

© 2013 New York Times

OTTAWA - Lobsters do not respect the lines on maps that define the Canada-United States border. They traverse the seabed contentedly munching on her- ring from New England to Newfoundland.

For the lobstermen up top, the international boundary is very real and respected. But there has been more cross-border tension as both sides struggle to find ways to earn more in an era of record harvests that are lowering the prices they get.

Last year, Canadian lobstermen, angry about a surge in low-cost imports from Maine, briefly blocked lobster-laden trucks from entering Canadian plants, raising charges of threats and intimidation in Maine. That was followed this year by a strike for higher prices in Canada, one swiftly undermined by the tactical error of lobstermen setting their traps before tying up their boats. On the other side of the border, Maine lobstermen and the state's governor fear that the state's new \$2.4 million marketing plan to help lobstermen will be undermined by trade rules that transform most Maine lobsters into a Canadian product. The surfeit of lobsters has pushed prices fishermen get down to levels not seen in decades, as low as \$1.20 a pound this summer in some parts of Maine, from a 10-year average price of just under \$4. Much of that decline has not been passed along to consumers feasting on lobster rolls or a whole steaming crustacean. Lobster can go for \$15 a pound at a grocery store.

"Something is seriously wrong, somebody's getting a whole ton of money," said Charles McGeoghegan, a lobsterman on Prince Edward Island since the age of 6. "We know that the fishermen aren't getting it."

The price drop has brought anxiety to lobstermen in

both countries. "I love what I do for a living. Every trap is like opening a Christmas present; I can't wait to see the next one," Steve Train, a lobsterman for 35 years who lives on Long Island, Maine, said



A live lobster just caught on a fishing boat.

(Handout Photo)

by telephone while eating a lobster sandwich for dinner. "I think we can survive this, but after two years in a row of it, you get a little nervous."

"There's a real injustice here," said Michael McGeoghegan, also a lobsterman for 35 years, president of the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association and the father of Charles. "If the consumer wasn't paying the big dollars, I'd say: it's OK, it's fair. One billion dollars changes hands in the Atlantic Canada lobster fishery and somebody's getting the money."

Each side thinks it is the other. Depending on who is counting, 50 to 70 percent of Maine's lobsters end up in Canadian processing plants. Geoff Irvine, the executive director of the Lobster Council of Canada, said that while a majority of Canadian lobstermen probably want a ban on

imports from Maine, Canadian plants are economically viable only if they receive American lobsters when the Canadian fishermen are idle.

He said Canadians should also remember that the

United States buys about three-quarters of Canada's harvest. "We've got a lot of eggs in the American basket," Irvine said. "We don't have any intention of getting into a fight with the Americans."

Too late for that. Across the border in the United States, Gov. Paul R. LePage of Maine is bothered by trade rules that transform Maine lobster into Canadian lobster once it is processed in Canada. He claims that the processing industry in Canada is heavily subsidized. LePage has pushed for Maine to become self-sufficient in processing within three years, an objective most in the industry believe is unattainable. While it would like more local processing, the Maine Lobstermen's Association is looking for a compromise that would see those Canadian lobsters labeled: "Harvested in Maine, Processed in Canada." □

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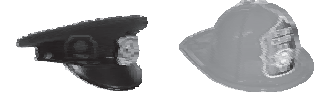
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1.8M-year-old skull gives glimpse of our evolution

SETH BORENSTEIN
SOPHIKO MEGRELIDZE
Associated Press

DMANISI, Georgia (AP) — The discovery of a 1.8-million-year-old skull of a human ancestor buried under a medieval Georgian village provides a vivid picture of early evolution and indicates our family tree may have fewer branches than some believe, scientists say. The fossil is the most complete pre-human skull uncovered. With other partial remains previously found at the rural site, it gives re-



In this photo taken Oct. 2, 2013, ancient skulls and jaws of pre-human ancestors are displayed at the Georgia National Museum in Tbilisi, Georgia.



In this photo taken Oct. 2, 2013, David Lordkipanidze, director of the Georgia National Museum, displays the ancient skull and jaws of a pre-human ancestor at the National Museum in Tbilisi, Georgia, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2013.

Associated Press

searchers the earliest evidence of human ancestors moving out of Africa and spreading north to the rest of the world, according to a study published Thursday in the journal *Science*. The skull and other remains offer a glimpse of a population of pre-humans of various sizes living at the same time — something that scientists had not seen before for such an ancient era. This diversity bolsters one of two competing theories about the way our early ancestors evolved, spreading out more like a tree than a bush.

Nearly all of the previous pre-human discoveries have been fragmented bones, scattered over time and locations — like a smattering of random tweets of our evolutionary history. The findings at Dmanisi are more complete, weaving more of a short story. Before the site was found, the movement from Africa was put at about 1 million years ago. When examined with the earlier Georgian finds, the skull “shows that this special immigration out of Africa happened much ear-

lier than we thought and a much more primitive group did it,” said study lead author David Lordkipanidze, director of the Georgia National Museum. “This is important to understanding human evolution.” For years, some scientists have said humans evolved from only one or two species, much like a tree branches out from a trunk, while others say the process was more like a bush with several offshoots that went nowhere.

Even bush-favoring scientists say these findings show one single species nearly 2 million years ago at the former Soviet republic site. But they disagree that the same conclusion can be said for bones found elsewhere, such as Africa. However, Lordkipanidze and colleagues point out that the skulls found in Georgia are different sizes but are considered to be the same species. So, they reason, it’s likely the various skulls found in different places and times in Africa may not be different species, but variations in one species.

To see how a species can vary, just look in the mirror, they said.

“Danny DeVito, Michael Jordan and Shaquille O’Neal are the same species,” Lordkipanidze said. The adult male skull found wasn’t from our species, *Homo sapiens*. It was from an ancestral species — in the same genus or class

called *Homo* — that led to modern humans. Scientists say the Dmanisi population is likely an early part of our long-lived primary ancestral species, *Homo erectus*. Tim White of the University of California, Berkeley, wasn’t part of the study but praised it as “the first good evidence of what these expanding hominids looked like and what they were doing.”

Fred Spoor at the Max Planck Institute in Germany, a competitor and proponent of a busy family tree with many species disagreed with the study’s overall conclusion, but he lauded the Georgia skull discovery as critical and even beautiful.

“It really shows the process of evolution in action,” he said.

Spoor said it seems to have captured a crucial point in the evolutionary process where our ancestors transitioned from *Homo habilis* to *Homo erectus* — although the study authors said that depiction is going a bit too far.

The researchers found the first part of the skull, a large jaw, below a medieval fortress in 2000.

Five years later — on Lordkipanidze’s 42nd birthday — they unearthed the well-preserved skull, gingerly extracted it, putting it into a cloth-lined case and popped champagne. It matched the jaw perfectly. They were probably separated when our ancestor lost a fight with a hungry carnivore, which pulled apart his skull and jaw bones, Lordkipanidze said.

The skull was from an adult male just shy of 5 feet (1.5 meters) with a massive jaw and big teeth, but a small brain, implying limited thinking capability, said study co-author Marcia Ponce de Leon of the University of Zurich. It also seems to be the point where legs are getting longer, for walking upright, and smaller hips, she said.

“This is a strange combination of features that we didn’t know before in early *Homo*,” Ponce de Leon said. □

Pre-Viking Age monuments uncovered in Sweden

MALIN RISING
Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Archaeologists in Sweden said Thursday they have unearthed the remains of unusually large wooden monuments near a pre-Viking Age burial ground. As archaeologists dug in preparation for a new railway line, they found traces of two rows of wooden pillars in Old Uppsala, an ancient pagan religious center. One stretched about 1,000 yards (1 kilometer) and the other was half as long. Archaeologist Lena Beronius-Jorpeland said the colonnades were likely from the 5th century but

their purpose is unclear. She called it Sweden’s largest Iron Age construction and said the geometrical structure is unique. “It is a completely straight line and they have dug postholes every 20 feet (6 meters),” she said. “They have had an idea of exactly where this line is going and where to build it. It is a fairly modern way of thinking and we don’t have many traces of these sorts of constructions from that time.” She said the pillars are believed to have been at least 23 feet (7 meters) high. Bones found in some postholes indicate animals had been sacrificed there.

Old Uppsala is known as a center for Norse religion, where believers gathered to sacrifice animals to gods such as Odin and Thor. The colonnades were found near a famous burial site where the three Iron Age kings Aun, Egil and Adils are believed to be buried. Beronius-Jorpeland said written testimonies from medieval times describe the city as a place for large pagan “blood ceremonies” and religious feasts. She said she believes there may be more colonnades in the area and archaeologists will continue to excavate and analyze the findings. □

'Gravity' holds atop box office for 3rd week

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Star power and Oscar aspirations are reigning at the box office, where the space adventure "Gravity" and the Somali pirate docudrama "Captain Phillips" are holding off all comers.

With \$31 million over the weekend according to studio estimates Sunday, "Gravity" topped the box office for the third straight week, cementing its status as the juggernaut of the fall movie-going season. It also took in another \$33.5 million overseas.

The 3-D Warner Bros. movie, starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney, has now made more than \$170 million in three weeks. The film's groundbreaking visuals have been particularly popular on IMAX screens, where it made an

"Avatar"-like \$7.4 million on the weekend.

"Captain Phillips," starring Tom Hanks and directed by Paul Greengrass, also held in second place, taking in \$17.3 million in its second week. The Sony film slid only 33 percent from its debut last weekend of \$25.7 million.

The two movies and their veteran stars were able to keep three new wide releases at bay: the horror remake "Carrie" (\$17 million for Sony and MGM), the Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger action film "Escape Plan" (\$9.8 million for Lionsgate), and the WikiLeaks drama "The Fifth Estate."

The last utterly flopped — a fate predicted by its subject, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange — taking in a paltry \$1.7 million for Disney. It's the worst debut this



This film image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Sandra Bullock in a scene from "Gravity." Associated Press

year for a film in such wide release (1,769 theaters).

"It's a very strong lineup that is not budging," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak, who noted the primary family choice, "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2," is also holding steady with \$10.1 million in its fourth

week. "'Carrie' came into a very competitive marketplace."

In a limited release of just 19 theaters, Steve McQueen's highly-anticipated slavery epic "12 Years a Slave," starring Chiwetel Ejiofor, opened with \$960,000. The exceptionally high theater average of \$50,000 suggested considerable audi-

ence eagerness for the already much-lauded film.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday. □

Stars, movies, shows honored for eco-friendliness

BURBANK, Calif.

(AP) — TV's "House of Cards" and the movie "Promised Land" are being recognized for their eco-friendly messages.

The Netflix show and the Focus Features film were honored by the Environmental Media Association Saturday night at its 23rd annual awards presentation. The organization aims to channel the power of celebrity and media to promote sustainable behaviors and ecological awareness.

The HBO documentary "Gasland Part II" and reality show "VICE" also won awards, along with the ABC comedy "Last Man Standing" and Nickelodeon's "Nick News with Linda Ellerbee."

Matt Damon accepted the Ongoing Commitment award and Hayden Panettiere received the Futures award at the private event, held at Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank, Calif. □




Hayden Panettiere arrives at the 23rd Annual Environmental Media Awards at Warner Bros. Studios on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013 in Burbank, Calif.


Associated Press

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Diahann Carroll attends the "House of Flowers" dinner honoring her and AMPAS President Cheryl Boone Isaacs at the home of Tracey Edmonds on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013 in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

Diahann Carroll: Quick-witted honoree

JESSICA HERNDON
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — At 78-years-old Diahann Carroll keeps a sense of humor. "I don't think I realize what the passage of time really means until people talk about things that I did in the '50s and I wonder 'Who the hell are they talking about?,'" the actress, singer and Golden Globe-winner said while being honored at a House of Flowers dinner Saturday evening. Beverly Johnson, Angela Bassett, Regina King and Anika Noni Rose were in attendance to applaud Carroll and fellow honoree Cheryl Boone Isaacs, the first African American president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The dinner, hosted by television producer Tracey Edmonds and film and television producer Debra Martin Chase, was held at Edmonds' home.

Fellow honoree Isaacs said the evening made her feel "on top of the world" and described her new post as AMPAS president as "going from zero to 60 in four seconds."

Conceptualized by Chase and deemed House of Flowers after Truman Capote's Broadway play, in which Carroll starred in 1954, the affair was meant to "celebrate female empowerment and to help open doors for future accomplishments," said Ed-

monds. "Diahann is a legend who's broken so many barriers and has always represented glamour," said Chase.

Occasionally brushing the soft curls from her face with her heavily jeweled hands, Carroll cracked grins as ladies like Johnson, Bassett and dancer and producer Debbie Allen lined up to collect hugs and kisses.

"I certainly don't feel like an icon," said Carroll in an interview before dinner. "I've had long stretches of unemployment. This is not an easy game." Later in her acceptance speech she said, "I really appreciate knowing that you've heard my name and remember it. I don't even know if I would have been allowed to drive down this street back in the '50s. Being here has given me new passion." After a 30-year hiatus, Carroll will return to Broadway in April to play Denzel Washington's mother in "A Raisin in the Sun." Rose will also star. A Tony Award-winner, four-time Emmy nominee, Oscar nominee and the first black actress to star in her own prime-time series, "Julia," Carroll says there is still one role she has yet to conquer: "I would love to be a part of a studio that tells our stories and has a means of growing." "Julia" debuted in 1968. Carroll is still making TV appearances as a recurring character on USA's "White Collar." □

'Walking Dead' inspires new convention in Atlanta



In this photo taken Friday, Oct 7, 2012, Kevin Galbraith, 24 of Marietta, Ga., undergoes a three hour make-up session to transform into his zombie character with the help of effects make-up artists Andy Schoneberg, right, and Kevin Wasner, left, on the set of AMC's television show, "The Walking Dead," in Senoia, Ga.

Associated Press

JEFF MARTIN
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Cable TV's "The Walking Dead" has inspired a new convention, a podcast, and a one-man play. The podcast and Atlanta-based convention are the creations of Eric Nordhoff and James Frazier, also known as the "Walker Stalkers" because of a road trip they made last fall from Nashville, Tennessee, to Georgia to see the AMC show being filmed.

The convention, Walker Stalker Con, is expected to draw 10,000 or more participants when it's held early next month, Nordhoff said. "The Walking Dead" characters battle zombies known as "walkers" in the streets of downtown Atlanta and in forests, small towns and a prison south of the city. The convention will feature appearances by some of the show's actors, including Norman Reedus, who slays walkers with a crossbow as Daryl Dixon; Andrew Lincoln, who plays Sheriff Rick Grimes, and Lauren Cohan, also known as Maggie Greene on the show.

The series returned for its fourth season this month

with its biggest audience ever. The 16.1 million people who watched the Oct. 13 series premier shattered the show's previous record of 12.4 million, the Nielsen company said.

Nordhoff and Frazier are neighbors in suburban Nashville, and had gathered every Sunday in Frazier's basement to watch "The Walking Dead." They'd heard talk of a big day of filming in Senoia, the town south of Atlanta where much of the show is produced, so they got up before sunrise and made the trip to Georgia.

"It was our dream day," recalls Nordhoff, 42.

"We got to meet I think eight members of the cast," he recalls. "Somebody called us the 'Walker Stalkers' when we were there." The two decided to develop a podcast that has become popular with fans of the show. The podcast features discussions of many aspects of the show's storyline and interviews with people behind the scenes, such as special effects makeup expert and show producer Greg Nicotero.

In April, Nordhoff and Frazier came up with the idea of holding the convention,

which will take place Nov. 1-3.

The show has also inspired one of its actors to stage a one-man play.

Robert "IronE" Singleton, who played "T-Dog" in the first three seasons of the show, will portray 18 characters in "Blindsided by The Walking Dead," which tells the story of how he grew up in the Perry Homes housing project during Atlanta's crack cocaine epidemic before he found work as an actor.

A key scene of "The Walking Dead" was filmed on a downtown Atlanta rooftop just a few miles from the project, where violence was ever-present during Singleton's childhood and teenage years.

"Blindsided by The Walking Dead" is a work of drama, comedy, dance, spoken word and rap. Its characters include a thug, a crack addict, Richard III from Shakespeare, God and Singleton's deceased mother. "I think it could inspire people and save lives," said the 38-year-old actor, who also will take part in a panel discussion during the convention. "It's about embracing truth and love through everything you do." □

Facebook's New Rules



JOE NOCERA
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No sooner had the ink dried on my last column - about the new Dave Eggers novel "The Circle," in which he imagines a world without privacy - than Facebook announced two changes to its privacy settings. In its short nine-year existence, Facebook has made many changes to its privacy policies, of course. More often than not, the changes have enabled the company to monetize the rich trove of data it collects from its users. When you get right down to it, that's really all it has to sell.

As these things go, these particular changes were less than earth-shattering: The first would make everyone's news feed searchable; the second would allow teenagers to share their latest thoughts or videos not just with their "friends," or their "friends of friends," but with anyone who uses Facebook.

Previously, under-18 users of Facebook were restricted to sending posts to "friends of friends" - a category that, admittedly, can run into the thousands for many teenagers.

Still, it felt as though Facebook was making at least some small effort to establish boundaries beyond which teens couldn't go: a zone of safety to protect them from predators and bullies. Now, it seemed, all bets were off. (In fairness, I should note that the default setting for teenagers is "friends," which is restrictive, and that users under 18 have to change their setting to be able to share information publicly.)

Whenever Facebook makes a change like this, it is always accompanied by some highfalutin rationale. Sure enough, the company says that the move will amplify the voices of young activists and idealists.

Well, I suppose. What the move clearly exemplifies, though, is the steady erosion of privacy online - and not just on Facebook. In some ways, Facebook is playing catch-up.

It's important to remember that Facebook didn't start life with an obvious business model. Begun as a way for university students to share information with others on the same campus - and no one else - it came to realize that advertising was its ticket and that advertisers wanted to be able to market to a large universe of people who were sharing information.

The more they divulged about

their likes and dislikes, the richer the data they provided.

Thus, as early as 2007, Facebook set up a program, called Beacon, that made it possible to advertise to a user's "friends" based on their purchases at other sites. It resulted in a class-action lawsuit that has been settled.

Facebook has since shut down Beacon. In 2009, it got in trouble with the Federal Trade Commission because it weakened its users' privacy settings without telling them. In 2010, it started a program called Open Graph, which gave marketers a wealth of information about a Facebook user's preferences. Most recently, the company has developed a program that turns its users' information into product endorsements that are displayed to their "friends." Such ads are far more powerful than an obvious corporate ad because the "friends" trust the user.

Meanwhile, Facebook's chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg, has always had a philosophical bent toward "openness" and "sharing" - which meshed nicely with his company's advertising focus. Emily Bazelon, a Slate columnist, found a radio interview in which Zuckerberg said, "We help you share information, and when you do that, you're more engaged on the site, and then there are ads on the side of the page." He added, "The model all just works out."

"I think Facebook's whole business model is habituating people to sharing all their information," Bazelon told me.

There's one other factor: There are plenty of popular sites today where there is no privacy at all. On Twitter, for the most part, every tweet is available for anybody to see. Plenty of teenagers have gravitated to Twitter. When I spoke to Facebook executives, I got the sense that they felt they had been backed into a corner and had no choice but to open their site further so that teenagers could post publicly on Facebook.

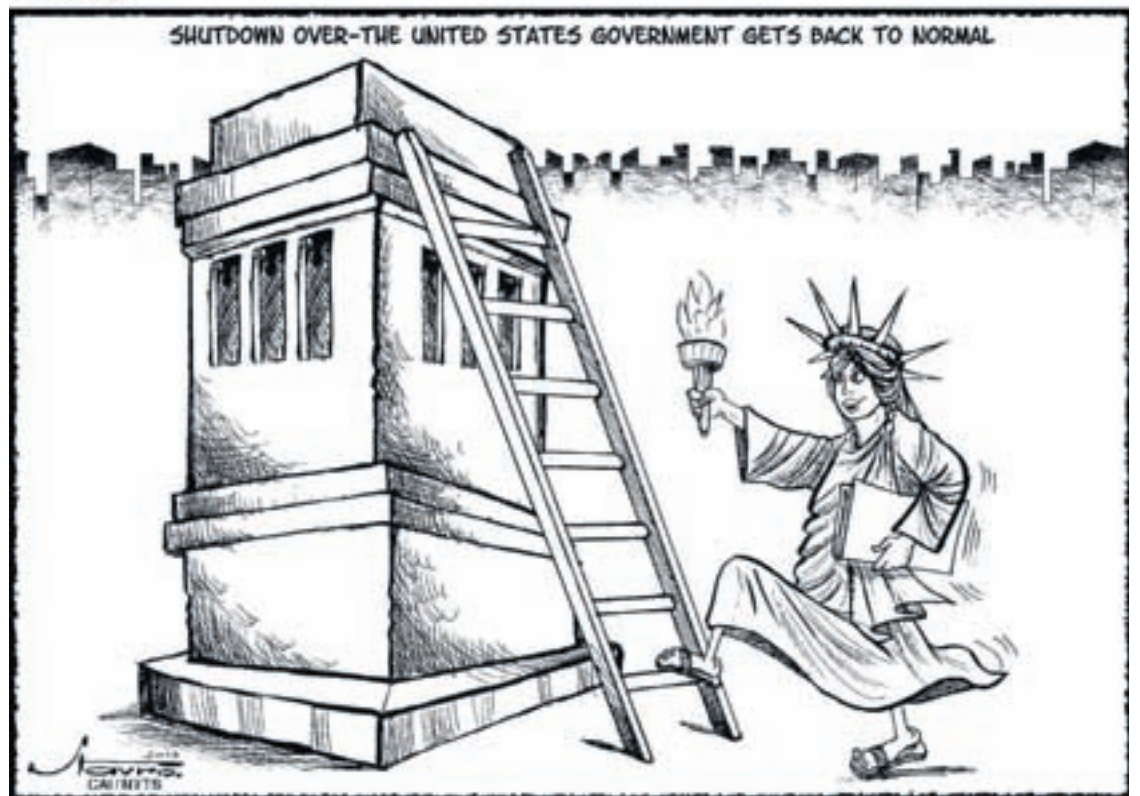
Why should Facebook be punished commercially by caring about privacy if competitors didn't - and the users didn't seem to care?

As for advertising, plainly the more time people spend on Facebook, the more likely advertisers will stick with the company, instead of gravitating to Twitter. Allowing teenagers to post publicly might well have the effect of keeping them in Facebook's orbit.

The company acknowledges it wants more public content, especially about popular subjects like television shows or movies. Advertisers will continue to target teens with those ads on the side of the page, just as they always have.

But what they won't do, Facebook executives insist, is use teens' own words and images to create ads, the way they can do now with adults. They say this with considerable vehemence, as if they are offended by the very notion.

Given their history, however, the obvious retort is: Give 'em time. □



A Ted Cruz On Every Corner



GAIL COLLINS
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Have you noticed how many lawmakers from Texas were doing crazy things during the government shutdown debacle?

We need to discuss this as a matter of simple justice. These days, when you say "Texas" in the context of heavy-breathing Republican extremism, everybody immediately thinks of Sen. Ted Cruz. Which is really unfair when there are so many other members of the state delegation trying to do their part.

I am thinking, for instance, of Rep. Randy Neugebauer, who harangued an innocent park ranger about a shutdown-shuttered war memorial, insisting that the ranger and her colleagues should be "ashamed of themselves."

Or Rep. Louie Gohmert, who created a mild diversion when he charged that John McCain, an opponent of the shutdown, "supported al-Qaida" in Syria. (McCain said he did not take offense because "if someone has no intelligence, I don't view it as being a malicious statement.")

Or Rep. Steve Stockman, who accused the president and House Democrats of "curbstomping veterans."

Or Rep. John Culberson, who cried "Let's roll!" in an apparent belief that shutting down the government was equivalent to resisting 9/11 terrorists.

Or Rep. Pete Sessions, who

summed things up rather neatly with: "We're not French. We don't surrender."

See? Share the credit.

The nation keeps searching for signs of a resurgent political center, but there aren't many hopeful peeps coming out of Texas. The pragmatic Texas Republican establishment is pretty much on its back, hyperventilating.

The old center-right standard-bearer, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, is desperately trying to wipe out his reputation as a mainstream politician while he runs for reelection.

"I don't know about you, but Barack Obama ought to be impeached," he told a Tea Party gathering recently, with more fervor for the cause than for grammatical construction.

Texas Democrats, who haven't won a statewide race in a generation, spent the last decade whimpering and waiting around for all the Hispanic children to grow up and start voting. However, this year, they have an exciting candidate for governor: Wendy Davis, the state senator who starred in that famous 11-hour filibuster against anti-abortion legislation this past summer. Some people think Davis, who is canny, energetic and attractive, might actually have a chance to win. But anybody who could just raise money and get 45 percent of the vote would be the party's biggest star since Ann Richards.

Davis' opponent will probably be the state's attorney general, Greg Abbott, who has already amassed enough cash to buy Nebraska. Abbott once provided supporters with his vision of the attorney general's duties: "I go into the office, I sue the federal government, and then I go home."

So there's that. Even the bottom of the ticket is going to have little sparks of strange. Next year, the race for Texas land commissioner will feature a new-generation Bush, Jeb's son George P. The singer Kinky Friedman says he's running for the Democratic nomination

for agriculture commissioner on a legalize-marijuana platform. The rest of us will just sit here and mull the fact that Texans feel the need to make these jobs elective.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Gov. Rick Perry appears to be planning to run for president again. And since Ted Cruz is pretty clearly planning a run, too, there could be two Texans in the Republican primary debates. Maybe an all-Texas ticket!

While Cruz has been trying to win the hearts of American voters by spreading fear, terror and economic chaos, Perry has been wandering around the country, criticizing other states for their high taxes and bragging about job growth in Texas.

Economic development has, indeed, been impressive, thanks mainly to the state's plentiful land and cheap housing. On the downside, a large part of Texas seems to be running out of water. Once the presidential debates kick off, perhaps Perry's opponents could lift their water glasses and make sloshing sounds every time he talks about growth. Ross Ramsey, a columnist for The Texas Tribune, suggested the governor's critics might carry bags of gravel to remind the world that Texas' undermaintained roads have deteriorated to such an extent that the highway department has let some of them revert from pavement to pebbles.

This week, Perry's in Israel, burnishing his foreign affairs credentials and promoting the Texas economy. Do not expect a critique of the Israeli tax code.

In Texas, there's so much craziness, it's hard for a normal crazy to get attention. Imagine an election year with both Perry and Cruz on television every night. To get any airtime, the Texas guys in the House of Representatives would have to call for impeachment while bungee jumping. While waving "Secede!" signs. While carrying unconcealed weapons.

Remember the Alamo. □

At Palm Beach Plaza Mall:

Aruba's Majestic Carnival Season Comes To Life!



PALM BEACH - Palm Beach Plaza Mall new majestic carnival season has started at Aruba's largest mall. The Aruba Carnival is a thrilling

show of over-the-top pagentry, produced by thousands and delighting and uniting the entire country. Here's the scoop on how it

began.

Carnival was born in 1954, as a series of small street festivals. The Tivoli Club, Aruba's oldest private social club, was the first to have a pre-Lenten celebration in Oranjestad in February 1944. The Allied victory of World War II was commemorated by an Aruba Festival - a large parade in San Nicolas comprised largely of Caribbean-English immigrants who came to Aruba to work at the Lago Oil Refinery. The first steel and brass bands debuted a few years later and small parades sprouted here and there.

Today Palm Beach Plaza Mall will have a great Carnival Show where you can



experience for yourself the taste of Aruba's Carnival culture with the opportunity to take pictures

with the majestic carnival dancers with carnival costumes. Come and enjoy the show! □

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